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# CONTENTS

## STYLE & FUNCTION



### THE INSIDE STORY OF WELCOMING SPACES

#### 29 Design Diva

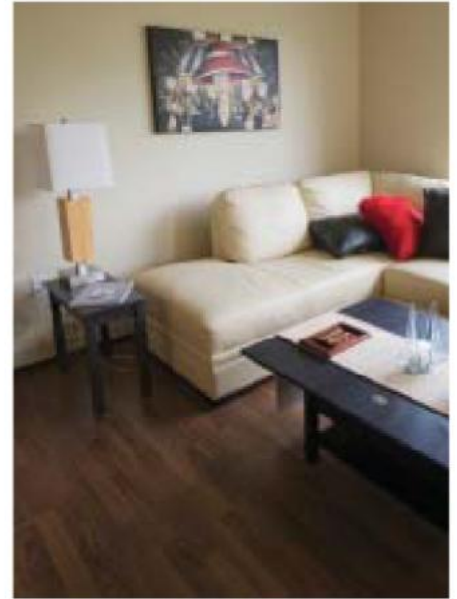
GLOBAL SOPHISTICATION INSPIRES  
INTERIOR DESIGNER'S PROJECTS

#### 37 The Light Within

HOW TO BRIGHTEN YOUR INTERIOR  
IN THE SEASONAL GLOOM

#### 40 The Elements of Saskatoon Style

THE SASKATOON HOME  
ROUNDTABLE



#### 7 Frontlines

- Home Sales Drop in October
- Building Permits Hit Record Levels
- New Low-Income Seniors Housing Project
- Housing Starts to Moderate in 2009
- CMHC Supports Canadian Credit Markets
- Housing Data Reveals Changes
- Affordable Housing in Pleasant Hill
- U of S Chooses Meridian for Student Housing

#### 15 Showcase

The European Touch  
Kurylyk Home Inspired by Gleaming Italian Tile

#### 19 Profile

Interior Designer Happy Grove  
Creator of Harmonious and Healthy Living Spaces

#### 21 Tipsheet

Interior Designer or Decorator?  
Make Your Choice According to Experience

#### 47 Spotlight

Post and Beam Palace  
Octagon Log Home with Wrap-Around Country Views

#### 49 Review

Willingdon Place  
Historic Cul-De-Sac Has Character and Charm

#### 51 Standards

Harmony and Balance  
What makes feelgood feel good?

#### 53 Suppliers

The Evolved Bathroom  
Now Eco-friendly "Rest" Rooms

#### 55 The Room

Super Garage Ideas  
A space you can be proud of.

#### 57 The City

Developers Invited to Rehabilitate  
McNab Park Duplexes

#### 59 Directory

#### 61 Backwords

When the Stuff of Life Becomes the Art of Wow

**Cover:** Living room at the home of Michelle and Ron Kurylyk. See story on page 37.

Unless noted otherwise, all stories and photographs in *Saskatoon Home* are by Darrell Noakes

# Tales from The Inside

# HOME

With winter coming, the focus of our homes moves indoors, where during the chilly Saskatoon months, we will stay warm in body and spirit. Our interiors are reflections of ourselves – our lifestyles, preferences, heritage and environment. We design and decorate our indoors for comfort, practicality and pleasing aesthetics.

And it is with the help of the professional interior design and decorating community that we can maximize our abodes. There are also suppliers and contractors on whom we rely to make our inner sanctum the very best we can be. We are fortunate in Saskatoon to have a

wealth of such professionals to help us. Many of them advertise in the pages of Saskatoon Home and we hope you will take advantage of their fine products and services.

In this issue we take a look at what influences constitute the distinctive inner workings of true Saskatoon home style. We profile some top city interior designers and offer you practical tips on how to enhance your inner abode. We also introduce a new feature, the Saskatoon Home Roundtable.

So what constitutes the heart of the true Saskatoon home? Rural roots, urban minimalism, a nod to sustainability. Warmth, heritage, practicality, connection with those close in our lives. Nature. Global culture and influences, new trends, but all blended with a distinctive, personal, local appeal.

We eagerly welcome your comments and suggestions.

Dona Sturmanis

Senior Editor

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# FRONTLINES

## Home Sales Drop in October

The Saskatoon Region Association of Realtors reported that the Saskatoon housing market saw sales drop 23 per cent in October, compared with the previous year. There were 215 units sold in October, 65 below the 280 home sales in October, 2007, the association reported in its monthly news release.

Year to date, 3,182 homes have been purchased, down 19 per cent from 2007, when 3,918 homes had been sold. Saskatoon real estate agents sold \$920,867,000 worth of residential real estate up to the end of October, a two per cent increase from 2007. Total MLS sales exceeded 1.1 billion dollars, down one per cent from last year at the same time.

The average residential selling price for October remained strong at \$285,310, a 12 per cent rise from \$255,739 during the same period last year. Year to date, the average price stands at \$289,399, up 26 per cent over the year. The average price verifies significant activity in the mid to upper price range homes. The average residential price is derived by taking the month's dollar volume of homes sold and

dividing that number by the unit sales number.

October 2008 inventory levels continued to provide buyers with excellent choice, the association said. Saskatoon real estate agents listed 695 homes in October, up 30 per cent from October 2007 when 535 homes were placed on the market for sale. Year to date, agents have listed 7,467 homes. At month end, home buyers had 1667 homes to select from. This number represents more than double the properties available to purchase at this time last year, the association reported.

"The significant increase in listing inventory is due to several factors," the association said. "The market frenzy of 2007 saw much speculation with many investors purchasing numerous properties to renovate and flip. Many individuals built several new homes to sell. Local investors and builders also stepped up to the plate and purchased homes and apartment blocks for conversion to condominiums.

"Some local buyers, who traditionally would have sold their current home and then bought a new one, bought a new one but did not sell their existing home speculating that the market would go up. These and other

reasons are why so many properties have been placed on the market at this time. It will take a few months for this inventory to return to a more normal level. In the interim some property owners are renting their homes with the intention of placing their homes back on the market in spring.

"Home sale numbers and prices will soften for a short period of time during this correction period and will likely begin to increase again in 2009 at a much slower rate than experi-

enced in the last two years.

"As we go through this correction period, home owners will have to recalculate their expectations when pricing their homes and expect a longer period of time for their home to sell.

"Consumers should be reminded that markets are cyclical. When we look back at markets that we have been through, we can look at the late 1980s when we had roughly the same number of properties on the market. We had fewer buyers as



**Alisa Latoski**

PHONE : (306) 229 8961

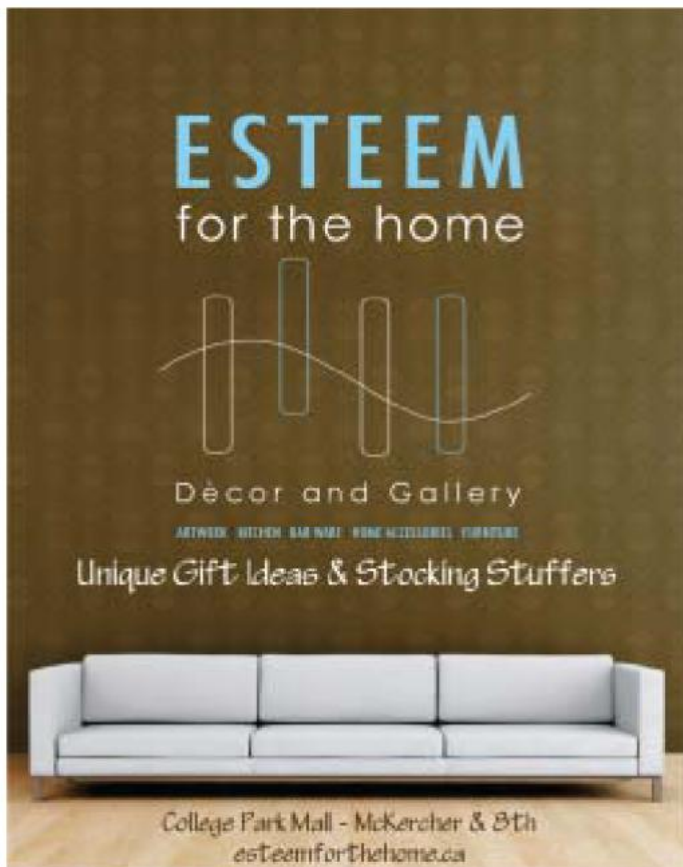
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our population at that time was only around 185,000 people. We also had roughly the same number of Agents in the industry.

"An additional factor to consider during the 80s was we had double digit interest rates versus single digit interest rates that we enjoy today. For example in the 80s a \$50,000 mortgage at 19 per cent had a \$934 Principal, Interest and Taxes (PIT) payment. Higher interest rates made servicing the debt somewhat difficult. Markets are cyclical and we are again going through a correction period and following that the market will resume, maybe not at the exact same level but it will rebound again.

"Saskatoon and all of Saskatchewan will be impacted by the recent global financial situation but when compared to other areas in Canada or North America going through this period of time in our history, Saskatchewan is likely to be one of the best places to live."

■ SASKATOON REGION ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

### Building Permits Hit Record Levels

Saskatchewan's building permits totalled \$347.5 million in September 2008, the highest amount ever on record, beating the previous record set in July 2008 (\$298.6 million).

In September 2008, building

permits in the province were up 142.2 per cent over last September, the highest percentage increase in Canada (seasonally unadjusted). Nationally, building permits increased by only 9.1 per cent.

"When you are dealing with numbers of this magnitude, it is hard to fathom that we are dealing with such hardships in the national economy," Enterprise and Innovation Minister Lyle Stewart said. "Although we cannot be too over confident, it is very difficult to hide the fact we are dealing with the best building permit numbers ever in the history of our province - that is amazing."

The value of residential permits was up by 14.7 per cent in the province between September 2007 and September 2008. Non-residential construction increased by 329.3 per cent to \$249.7 million during that same period.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, building permit increases also recorded the highest percentage increases in the nation, up 115.2 per cent between August 2008 and September 2008. On the national front, permits were up 13.4 per cent.

"We are very encouraged by these numbers, and are confident the new tax changes we have implemented along with the strong fiscal management will help to encourage further investment, and continue the building boom in the province," Stewart said.

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### New Low-Income Seniors Housing Project

**Low-income seniors in Saskatoon have access to new affordable rental housing** with the opening of Columbian Manor, thanks to federal, provincial and municipal funding totalling \$3.5 million.

"The Government of Canada is committed to making affordable housing available in Saskatchewan and across Canada for those who need it most," said Lynne Yelich, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development and Member of Parliament for Blackstrap. "Projects like the

Columbian Manor will give seniors in Saskatoon the opportunity to stay in their community, close to family and friends, while receiving the care and support they need."

"Today's announcement means that more lower-income seniors in Saskatoon will be able to remain independent for as long as possible," Social Services Minister Donna Harpauer said. "Our government is committed to working with our partners to meet the growing needs of our citizens. Safe, secure and stable housing is very important and all citizens should have homes that promote health, independence, security and dignity."

"We turned the sod for this complex two years ago, and I'm

delighted that today, we open its doors to the seniors in our community," Mayor Atchison said. "It is just another example of how these partnerships can work together successfully to ensure that all our citizens have safe, affordable housing and can enjoy a better quality of life. This is what makes a community strong."

The 51 new units were constructed under the federal, provincial and municipal Centenary Affordable Housing Program (CAHP). The total budget for the project was \$6,082,136. Under CAHP, funding assistance was provided by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (\$1,734,000); Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (\$1,387,200) and the City of

Saskatoon (\$346,800). The funding balance was provided by K.C. Charities in the form of mortgage financing (\$2,104,136) and land contribution (\$510,000). The project was coordinated by K.C. Charities Inc., a non-profit charitable corporation established in Saskatoon in 1983.

CAHP is funded under the Canada-Saskatchewan Affordable Housing Agreement. It provides approximately \$33 million in federal funding for affordable housing, which is matched by Saskatchewan, municipalities and other partners. With these matching contributions, more than \$66 million will be committed for affordable housing.

■ PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN



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## Housing Starts to Moderate in 2009

New home construction will moderate from historically high levels, to reach just under 178,000 units in 2009, a level that is consistent with demographic fundamentals, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's fourth quarter Housing Market Outlook, Canada Edition report.

"High employment levels, rising incomes and low mortgage rates have continued to provide a solid foundation for healthy housing markets this year," said Bob Dugan, Chief Economist for CMHC. "Housing starts will moderate to 212,200 units in 2008 and 177,975 units in 2009."

Existing home sales, as measured by the Multiple Listing Service (MLS), which reached a record level of 523,701 sales in 2007, will moderate in 2008 to 452,225 units. In 2009, MLS sales will move to 433,375 units. Despite a moderation in MLS sales, demand for existing homes will remain strong by historical standards. With housing markets having become balanced across Canada, the rate of growth in the average MLS price will moderate. Average prices will reach \$306,500 in 2008 and \$306,700 in 2009.

As Canada's national housing agency, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation draws on more than 60 years of experi-

ence to help Canadians access a variety of quality, environmentally sustainable, and affordable homes – homes that will continue to create vibrant and healthy communities and cities across the country.

■ CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

## CMHC Supports Canadian Credit Markets

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) will purchase up to \$25 billion in insured mortgage pools as part of the Government of Canada's plan to maintain the availability of longer-term credit in Canada.

The first purchase of \$5 billion was made October 16, 2008 through a competitive auction process. The mortgages involved are high-quality assets that are already guaranteed through government-backed mortgage insurance. The Government will announce a schedule of future purchase dates.

## StatsCan Housing Data Reveals Changes

Nationally, the New Housing Price Index increased, year-over-year, by 2.3 per cent in August compared with 2.7 per cent in July, Statistics Canada reported in October.



On a monthly basis, prices were unchanged between July and August, with the New Housing Price Index remaining at 158.6 (1997=100).

Regionally, prices rose at the fastest pace in St. John's with an annual price increase of 23.7 per cent. Builders reported that material and labour costs, as well as higher land development costs, contributed to the increases in this city.

Regina, which registered no monthly price change in August, had the second highest annual increase for surveyed Canadian cities at 23.1 per cent. However, this was down from its record increase of 34.0 per cent in April of this year.

In Saskatoon, the year-over-year increase was 8.0 per cent, again confirming a trend of deceleration in this city. On a month-over-month basis, new housing prices decreased by 3.1 per cent as Saskatoon builders reported slowing

| <b>New housing price indexes</b><br>(1997=100) | <b>August 2008</b> | <b>August 2007 to August 2008<br/>% change</b> | <b>July to August 2008</b> |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Canada total                                   | 158.6              | 2.3                                            | 0.0                        |
| House only                                     | 168.0              | 1.8                                            | 0.0                        |
| Land only                                      | 140.2              | 3.4                                            | 0.1                        |
| St. John's                                     | 170.4              | 23.7                                           | 0.7                        |
| Halifax                                        | 149.8              | 7.2                                            | 0.0                        |
| Montréal                                       | 163.4              | 5.2                                            | 0.7                        |
| Ottawa-Gatineau                                | 168.7              | 4.1                                            | 0.0                        |
| Toronto                                        | 146.5              | 3.4                                            | 0.1                        |
| Winnipeg                                       | 180.2              | 6.7                                            | 0.2                        |
| Regina                                         | 248.5              | 23.1                                           | 0.0                        |
| Saskatoon                                      | 229.0              | 8.0                                            | -3.1                       |
| Calgary                                        | 246.1              | -1.1                                           | -0.8                       |
| Edmonton                                       | 234.3              | -5.7                                           | 0.0                        |
| Vancouver                                      | 124.2              | 1.5                                            | -0.1                       |
| Victoria                                       | 118.3              | -0.3                                           | -0.3                       |

market conditions and stiff competition from the resale housing market.

■ STATISTICS CANADA

### Affordable Housing in Pleasant Hill

The City of Saskatoon Community Services Department received four proposals for the

Pleasant Hill Revitalization Project.

Of the four proposals, two were ranked highly by the Pleasant Hill Review Committee: one from Cenith Energy Corporation, an Ontario company, and one from the Affordable New Home Development Foundation.

The proposal from Cenith Energy Corporation (Ontario) will introduce a new kind of

housing product to Saskatoon, manufactured entirely from factory built, pre-fabricated components. This type of housing is extremely energy efficient, with estimates as high as 70 per cent more energy efficient than conventional housing. The housing product exceeds EnergyStar and R2000 standards. Their proposal is for 56 units in total. The average cost to construct the dwellings only is estimated to be \$140 per square foot.

The Affordable New Home Development Foundation submitted a proposal to build three innovative "big house" designs. The foundation has contracted with three small local builders to offer training opportunities to young skilled tradespeople throughout the construction process. The three companies will be mentored by two larger, more experienced housing firms, North Prairie and Northridge Developments. The

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"Big House" design is a new form of stacked townhouses, containing 12 dwellings each, for a total of 36 units. It is a very neighbourhood friendly design with patios, porches, and balconies, and each unit has views in two directions. The units will be built to EnergyStar specifications. The average cost to construct the dwellings only is estimated to be \$120 to \$160 per square foot.

The City of Saskatoon review committee ranked both proposals highly, but the proposal from the foundation fell short in some areas. The Cenith proposal will bring new building technologies to Saskatoon and significantly reduce the operating costs of housing for the owners by exceeding EnergyStar and R2000 specifications. It is a custom built design which will have input from the review committee members and Cress Housing, Habitat for Humanity, and Quint Development Corporation.

In recognition of the strong proposal submitted by Affordable New Home Development Foundation (ANHDF), the Administration is recommending entering into negotiations with the ANHDF to try and secure the development of housing units on future development parcels within the Pleasant Hill Revitalization area.

The proposals were brought before city council on October 27. Council voted unanimously to defer discussion to a scheduled committee meeting the following week, with a council decision expected in November.

■ CITY OF SASKATOON

### U of S Chooses Meridian for Student Housing

The University of Saskatchewan and Saskatoon-based Meridian Development Corp. have teamed up to explore business

models for up to 200 four-bedroom new student housing units at the university. The project would be located near the Williams Building on Cumberland Avenue.

"We know on-campus housing is an important part of the student experience," said Richard Florizone, U of S vice-president of finance and resources. "As an institution, we are determined to provide the kinds of housing options students want, need and can afford."

The U of S invited proposals for the residence project from private-sector developers in mid-August in order to explore potential development models that would address the financial challenges associated with a student housing development, said Florizone. A number of companies came forward with proposals but Meridian's demonstrated the strongest understanding of the particular needs related to student housing, he said.

"We're excited to be working with the University of Saskatchewan," said Colleen Wilson, a partner in Meridian Development Corp. "We understand the pressures on students to find affordable housing in Saskatoon, and the university's desire to create an enriching environment and to finance and build projects like this on its own."

Located in the heart of Saskatoon, the University of Saskatchewan is one of the leading medical doctoral universities in Canada. With 58 degrees, diplomas and certificates in over 100 areas of study, the University is uniquely positioned in the areas of human, animal and plant studies. World-class research facilities, renowned faculty and award winning students make the U of S a leader in post-secondary education.

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# SHOWCASE

## The European Touch

Kurylyk Home  
Inspired by Gleaming  
Italian Tile

Porcelain floor tiles from Italy provided the inspiration for the interior of Michelle and Ron Kurylyk's Cathedral Bluffs home.

"When we were looking at flooring, we saw this tile," says Michelle. "It had a real shimmer to it. It looked like sand. I liked the flow of it. That was the inspiration of this house."

In fact, that special tile influenced the colour scheme, the hardwood flooring elsewhere in the house, the cabinetry and countertops in the kitchen, and other design elements.

Michelle and her husband Ron operate three businesses. Aspen West Construction builds new homes and conducts home renovations. Aspen Interiors is their commercial construction business. For residential customers, Très Chic Interiors provides interior design consulting.

The porcelain tiles resonate throughout the house. They are the first thing you notice when you walk through the front entrance, leading around the staircase and into the



kitchen and dining area. They are in the master bath, where they also rise into some of the vertical surfaces of the shower enclosure and bathtub. They form the stair tread leading to

the basement, where they flow into the entertainment and exercise areas.

On the main floor, maple engineered wood flooring with a warm walnut semi-gloss finish provides the perfect complement to the porcelain, defining the living room and connecting the bedrooms. Downstairs, Marmoleum flooring blends with the tiles, while establishing a durable surface for everyday activities.

With the tiles and flooring setting the tone, Michelle then chose the furniture to match the colour scheme. Searching for a sectional and chaise to suit the livingroom, she found what she

**Above:** A 19 by 16 foot sun room, originally designed as an outdoor patio, lets the couple enjoy their view of the South Saskatchewan River year round.

**Left:** A contemporary chandelier, supplied by Richardson Lighting, graces the entrance foyer, while a curved staircase leads to the basement. Photos by Amela Mujkic, Realview.ca

needed at Furniture World. Cushions turned up at Details and Winners, the lively rug at Pier One Imports.

"The table? That was at EQ3," says Michelle. "I really liked the water droplet look. It makes you just want to touch it."

The drapery was prepared by the Blind Factory, developed from a green fabric that Michelle had found earlier; they com-





pleted the look with the brown fabric and trim.

The maple cabinetry in the kitchen expresses Michelle's personal vision.

"I wanted a rich, elegant, not too fussy, contemporary style," she says.

The cabinetry began with a hand-rubbed red stain, then was overlaid with a dark, almost black, stain. The counter tops are a dark African granite, supplied by Michelangelo Marble and Granite, while the back splash is finished in porcelain tile.



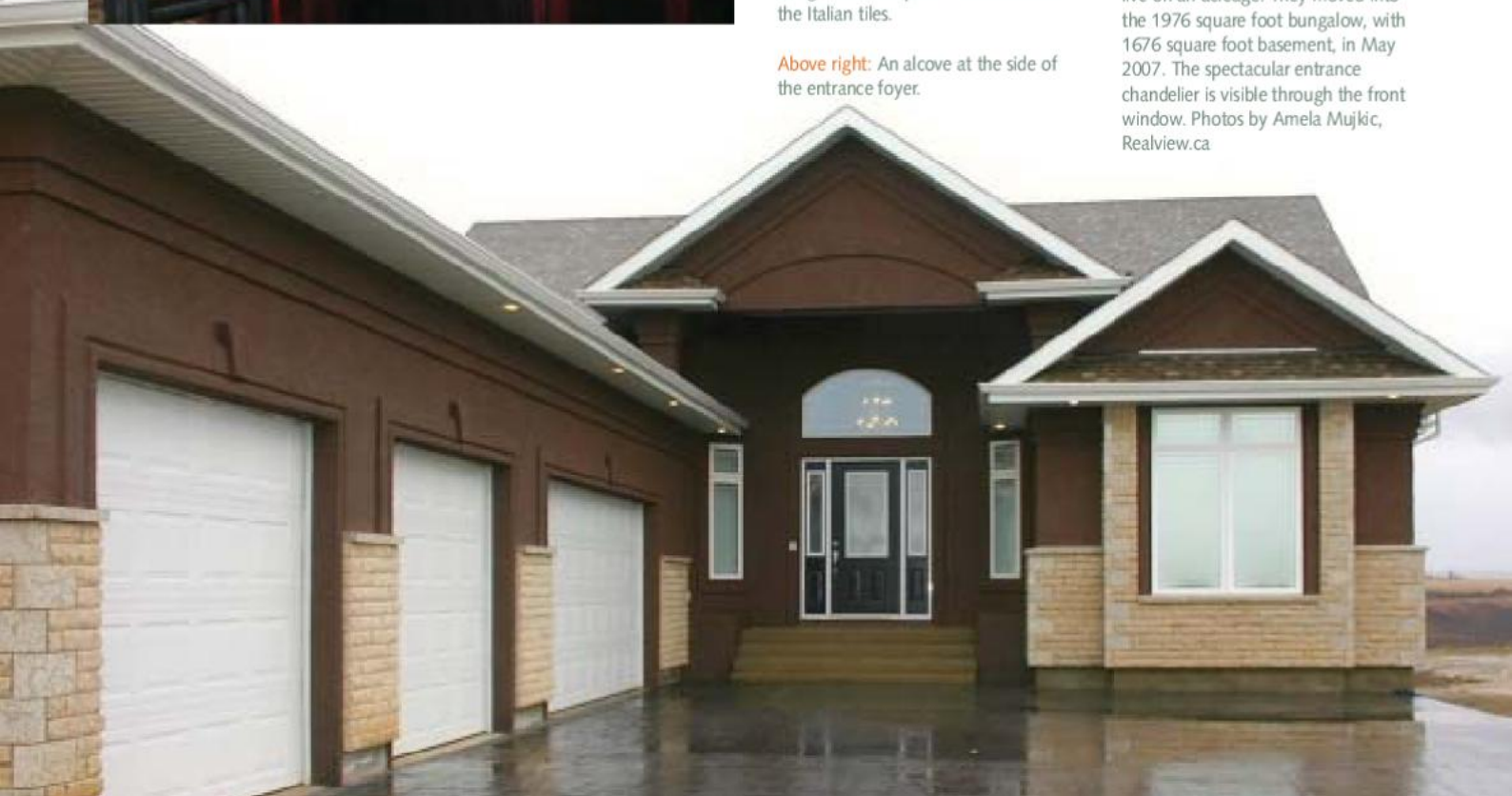
**Above left:** Maple kitchen cabinetry, maple flooring and other design elements were chosen to blend with the Italian porcelain tile flooring. The lighting in the dining and kitchen is of the same design as the chandelier in the entrance foyer.

**Left:** The kitchen features maple cabinets, hand rubbed with a red stain, then covered with a darker stain designed to compliment the tones of the Italian tiles.

**Above right:** An alcove at the side of the entrance foyer.



**Below:** When Ron and Michelle Kurylyk started building their new home in Cathedral Bluff in February, 2006, they began to fulfill a dream to live on an acreage. They moved into the 1976 square foot bungalow, with 1676 square foot basement, in May 2007. The spectacular entrance chandelier is visible through the front window. Photos by Amela Mujkic, Realview.ca





**Right** The living room features maple floors and a fireplace shared with the master bedroom. Painting, "Abstract Squares," by Patrick St. Germain, five hand-painted abstracts on stretched canvases floating on a hand-painted and banded metal background with a double wood frame treatment.

**Below:** Imported Italian porcelain floor tiling provided the inspiration for the home's interior design, says Michelle. The tiles flow throughout the house, with other design elements, such as the maple flooring and counters, designed to blend with the floor. In-floor heating beneath the tiled portions of the floor maintains even temperature that only occasionally needs to be supplemented by the forced air furnace.

**Bottom:** Michelle chose the colours of the master bedroom to complement the tones of the Italian floor tiles. The hardwood flooring is maple engineered wood with a walnut semigloss finish.



The lighting is striking. An ornate, contemporarily-styled chandelier, supplied by Richardson Lighting, hangs in the main entrance foyer. Matching pendant lamps illuminate the kitchen counter, while a smaller chandelier of the same design augments the dining area. Almost all their lighting is from Richardson, says Michelle, adding that she and Ron have dealt with that company for at least 20 years.

"I like to stay local, keep our product from Saskatchewan," says Ron.

There are other interesting details in the house, little things that most people wouldn't notice, but which show a particular attention to detail.

With so much residential construction completed using sharp corners or rounded, bull nose corners on the interior

walls, the couple decided that their house needed a refreshing look. They finished their walls with baby chamfer corners, creating a tasteful bevel wherever two walls meet.

"It's a special order," says Ron. "I build this stuff all the time, and we just wanted something different."

A sound system is built in, with speakers wired into the ceilings throughout the house, installed by Visions Electronics.

"I try to do it on as thrifty budget as a person can, actually," says Michelle, adding that she carries the same thriftiness into the work she does for her clients. "I'll shop, I'll hunt until I find the perfect item at a good price."

"Sometimes you have to pay a bit more if you're in love with something and you just have to have it," she adds.





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# PROFILE

## Interior Designer Happy Grove Creator of Harmonious and Healthy Living Spaces

**It's surprising, sometimes, how the seemingly random twists and turns of life can lead someone to a destination to which they needed to arrive.**

Happy Grove, born and raised in Calgary, came to Saskatoon five years ago. He had been a successful and sought after interior designer in Calgary. His firm, at its height, sustained two partners, two junior designers and a staff of eight people.

"We were doing residential design mostly," he says. "Some high end commercial, but mostly residential. That's my passion for sure."

He taught interior design at Mount Royal College, where he had completed his education a decade earlier, a process which had begun at Ryerson University before that.

But Calgary was losing the lustre that made it such a wonderful place to grow up. When Grove's partner, artist Adrian Stimson, was accepted into a University of Saskatchewan master's program, they both were very ready to be in a smaller city, says Grove. Calgary



could make a person insane.

"To see it just grow so fast and so big, and the attitudes around that growth: boom and bust, it's big bravado and a lot of show," he says. "That kind of rapid expansion and growth, moving then into concurrent areas of no growth and shrinking creates a city that looks like Calgary, and it didn't feel good at all. It was taking me 45 minutes to drive to work, where it would take here less than eight. I just was ready

for a break and a change and to go."

They bought into a land cooperative near Shellbrook, staying for four months before moving to Saskatoon. They built two straw bale buildings from materials reaped from the land: straw from local fields and natural mud recipes.

"It was a very refreshing approach to creating space," he says.

Once in Saskatoon, Grove

Happy Grove believes that people are happiest and healthiest in spaces that embody the expression of their true selves. The designer loves the "humanness" of residential spaces, where people express their family and personal lives. "I like bringing people's personalities into spaces," he says. Saskatoon is a city with so much potential: "It's filled with people who are caring and want the city to succeed."

became fascinated with Japanese shiatsu massage, learning the craft from Yuki Sugimoto.

"Even though at the time I didn't recognize it, it has totally helped form and inform my new love of interior design," says Grove.

When his shiatsu practice was cut short by injury, interior design fell back into his lap. He had stayed in touch with the business through the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living's Designing Spaces fundraising project, participating for two years, when suddenly a client knocked on his door.

"Giving myself a clean, fresh, start mid-career helped shake loose some of my old attitudes," he says. "We're living in a time of dramatic change where we must focus on what we're doing to the planet in order to get our environments built. I had the old-school attitude: if you can afford it, have it; and if you want, it have it."



That approach was unsustainable. It failed to consider embodied energy or life span, he says.

"We were just trying to create fabulous looking space. Breaking from that and moving into this raw place where I had my feet and hands in the ground and building with materials that were from there, really gave me a new outlook on it. Learning shiatsu, in a more abstract way, helped me because in shiatsu the philosophy is that your energetic body informs your physical body. If you think you're sick, you will make yourself sick. Thinking is energy. It's not a physical thing, yet it directly relates to how we experience ourselves in the physical world."

In other words, people have emotional responses to their physical environment, whether it's memories associated with the furniture they brought with them from university or had shared with others. Many clients, for example, have said that their wives hated their furniture. It was the husband's furniture before them, from a different time. Yet, couples kept the furniture.

"They're fighting against themselves and creating disharmony and that resonates into how we act and are in the world," says Grove. "Learning shiatsu, getting in touch with the earth and being alive at a time when we're really encouraged to think wisely about what we're

doing, I got this whole other way of thinking about it.

"I'm more likely to say to my client, 'How much does it mean to you and do you like it,?' versus, 'I don't think it goes.' And if the client loves it, we'll find a way to put it in there, because I believe that resonance is where health lies. Every human being on the planet creates a little space to live in and when it's healthy, we support our own health."

Consequently, Grove has become a proponent of natural materials that minimize harm to the environment. A wool carpet with jute backing, for example, is a renewable resource. The glue may be less renewable, but it's only one element among everything else from which the carpet is made.

"When I put that carpet in the dump when I'm done with it, I'm going to feel a lot better than I would have if I had put a fabulous nylon carpet in the dump. Wool and jute goes back into the soil.

"We used to think about 'cradle-to-grave' life spans for objects, but now it's 'cradle to cradle', the cradle being the earth, from which we take all the materials that we manipulate to create our stuff — and it's got to go back to the earth. When you look at it (that way), the dump's not the last thing that happens to our stuff. It's just part of that process of it going back into the earth.

"I think of that when I'm designing," he explains.

His Saskatoon business, HAPPYLIVINGSPLACE, is growing by word of mouth, providing exciting residential projects to work on.

"I just love it," he says. "I like the humanness of these spaces. It's where life is: family life, personal life.

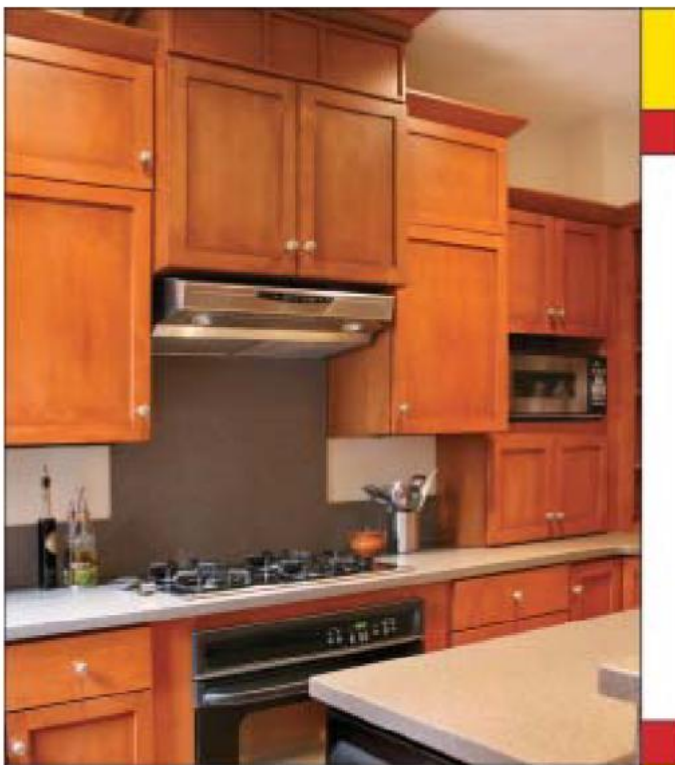
"I like bringing people's personalities into spaces. I don't have a 'look'. I try different approaches and lots of different things."

"I'm working on my own again. I love working on my own. It's because it don't work alone. I work with architects. I work with engineers. I work with the contractors. I work with the home owner. They're all part of the great big team of people that have to come together to make this work."

Saskatoon is definitely where it has all come together for Grove.

"Most people go somewhere for a reason: they've got a job or an opportunity. I came here for very personal reasons. In hindsight, I can say this is the best decision I could ever have made.

"When I look back, this city has so much potential. It is filled with people who are caring and want the city to succeed. I came here without knowing what this place would reveal or yield for me, only to be absolutely delighted."



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# TIPSHEET

## Interior Designer or Decorator? Make Your Choice According to Experience

Homeowners make decisions about adding more space to their existing home or changing window sizes and shapes. Some projects can be handled by the homeowner. Others may be overwhelming or too complicated to tackle without professional expertise. But which design professional is the right one for the job – an interior designer or interior decorator?

There seems to be confusion over the role of these professionals. Often, people use the descriptions interchangeably. Both professions are essential to the design industry, but there are

significant variations in the services each provides.

### What is the difference?

Marian Hoffos, owner of Holliday-Scott Interiors Design Studio, says the most telling difference is the education and professional designation.

“An interior designer must have post secondary education from an accredited institution or design school,” says Hoffos. “This includes a combination of education plus work experience, which in Saskatchewan is a minimum of seven years. Professional affiliation with an Interior Design Association is also a requirement.”

As past president of the Interior Designers Association of Saskatchewan (IDAS), Hoffos says the Association helps stu-

dents by providing mentorship and guidance through a mandatory number of Certified Education Units.

When a student reaches the combined education and work experience level, they complete a written exam offered through the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ). Certification by NCIDQ provides the legal entitlement of Professional Interior Designer.

An interior decorator, on the other hand, does not require accreditation, although decorators often bring with them a considerable wealth of education and experience. Individuals may enrol in courses or classes in interior decoration to augment their creative flair.

### What services and professional skills guide each field?

Hoffos describes an interior designer as a planner of space within a built shell.

“I measure the space and determine the mechanicals for the floor plans,” says Hoffos. “The plans include the design for the millwork, lighting, speciality wall finishes and plumbing.”

An interior designer must be knowledgeable of building codes, egress and fire code requirements, while protecting the life, health, safety and welfare of the public.

Hiring an interior designer from the very beginning of the project, prior to the contractor, gives a homeowner an opportunity to figure out their needs before the design occurs.



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Hoffos says, "From the first few meetings with a client, an interior designer will determine if a structural or mechanical engineer is required on the project, and then can design, draft and coordinate all the information to complete the working drawings and tendering package that would go out to the perspective contractors."

Upon determining the client's needs, interior designers may offer the following services: space planning and layout, selection of materials and finishes, product specification, liaison with other consultants and project management.

"With the client's specifications in mind, I'd like to think we make the contractor's job easier," says Hoffos. "Interior designers' knowledge about the industry helps deal with problems that may arise on the job site."

Interior decorators focus on decor, by adding decoration to an environment that is already built. As an example, they can help clients select colours, styles and finishes of window coverings, lighting fixtures and placement of artworks.

Happy Grove, owner of HAPPYLIVING-SPACE Interior Design Studio, defines decor as part of design.

"Design is the bigger picture," says Grove. "Design implies that you're going 'into' the physical form of the space. Decor is 'on' the physical space, the surfaces, the paint colour, the drapes, furniture, fabrics, lighting and so forth."

Without the education and professional designation, interior decorators are not qualified to draw up plans or work on projects that require structural alternations.

When selecting the appropriate professional, and to make the task easier, it becomes important that homeowners have a clear understanding of the work they need help with.

Hoffos also advises that, in the case of interior designers, check if they have errors and omissions insurance, Workers Compensation coverage, and general office liability insurance. As members of IDAS, they must have these. She also suggests asking for references for similar scaled projects and calling the references.



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SASKATOON HOME FALL 2008

# The INSIDE STORY

## Welcoming Spaces



Our homes are the enduring reflection of who we are, and that is most true when considering our interior spaces.

## At Home in the Winter of Our Content



AS THE WINTER CLOSES IN, OUR INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT TO US. OUR INTERIOR DESIGN AND DECOR TAKE ON A DIFFERENT MEANING AT THIS TIME OF YEAR THAN DURING WARMER MONTHS AND SEASONS WITH MORE DAYLIGHT.

Even if we cherish outdoor activities, such as cross country skiing or travelling to vacation spots in more southerly latitudes, the fact is we still spend more time indoors than out. Our trips are short. We always return home.

We take comfort in the familiar things around us, and nowhere is comfort and familiarity more intensely felt than inside our homes. Our earliest memories centre around the home. It's where we were raised, so naturally there is a cultural influence on why we take comfort in these spaces. Our homes are the first place we felt safe and protected.

Elsewhere in this issue, designer Adrienne Zvacek alludes to this when she describes the way in which Saskatoon style blends urban and rural influences. We take what was familiar to us in the past and carry it with us as we advance. We create linkages between our past and our present. We need the continuity. Tammy Thorson-Manchur also reinforces this concept, when she says that our homes allow an expression of our individuality. We don't need to follow the latest trends.

In a way, that's what makes the newest design trends so interesting. As much as our homes provide stability, familiarity and



comfort, we also like the latest trends. Things that are new have a way of making us feel refreshed. There's always something invigorating about updating the look of our interiors, but we do it on our own terms. We make the changes when we are ready and do so to create a new environment with which we can quickly become comfortable.

Designers recognize this. Many of the newest design trends reflect past styles. Architect Bill Edwards notes that the great room, a design concept that many see as a new trend, actually is an older concept that is making a comeback.

Our domestic space affects us psychologically, too. It affects our perception of density, privacy and control, factors that directly relate to the ways in which we feel stress in our lives. Even when living within a dense environment, which we seek out to fulfill our social needs, we still desire privacy in our personal spaces to make us feel healthy and sustained. Our homes are where we exercise control over our lives.

The quality of light that enters our homes also has a significant impact. Just ask anyone who suffers from seasonal affective disorder. But even for those who don't, it's known that natural light improves mood. A wide spectrum of light at high intensity makes us

happy. In our Saskatchewan winters, we are exposed to less natural light but designers have a wonderful assortment of tools for compensating with an ever-expanding array of artificial light choices. Designing with light is becoming a growing trend.

Lamps and fixtures can make ambient light feel softer, spaces larger. Adding more control over lighting can help adjust the mood of the room, creating a more appropriate atmosphere for night and day.

Light technology may be even more helpful in the future. Coloured lights that subtly change tone according to the time of day, or your mood, can match your circadian rhythms and create a healthier environment.

Related to light, colours play a role, too. Lighter colours make our ceilings seem taller, our rooms wider, our spaces more open. Darker colours feel lower, smaller, narrower and enclosed. Colours also influence the way we perceive humidity, temperature and aroma. Orange isn't just a "warm" colour, it actually makes you feel warmer. Pink makes you believe that whatever you're eating at the moment is sweeter.

Our interiors provide stability in our lives. The outside world can change, but we expect our homes to welcome us back into our familiar environments.

■ DARRELL NOAKES



# DESIGN

Colleen Wilson gets her inspiration from many sources. People absorb a lot when they travel, she says. Seeing ideas put into practice elsewhere, whether it's traditional design or a trendy new style, opens the designer's imagination to new possibilities at home. Saskatoon is seeing more progressive designs, says Wilson.



## Global Sophistication Inspires Interior Designer's Projects

# INDIVA

**Colleen Wilson recalls a memorable television talk show appearance by actress and singer Della Reese,** in which the entertainer said there are some days when she feels like Little Bo Peep.

"That's kind of how I feel about houses," says Wilson. "I see so many things when we're in the process of decorating and doing things for the company. You get ideas and you want to do them, but you can't do them all in one house."

Wilson, perhaps most widely recognized as a host and producer on Global Television

since its Saskatoon beginnings, is a driving force behind Meridian Development. Along with her business partner, Karl Miller, and her husband, developer Ken Achs, Wilson is instrumental in defining Saskatoon style.

"I didn't come into it doing that," she says. "I came into it being a lawyer, but I've always been creative, long before I became a lawyer, and was involved in the fashion industry. The fashion industry and home decor go hand in hand."

Wilson's first design happened almost by accident. One of her husband's residential



projects needed a different perspective. The design seemed just not quite right, and everyone involved in the project was stymied.

"He said, 'I'll have to get somebody else to do it – you. That was the beginning. Since then, I've been very involved. That goes back 12 years already. My whole personality is creative.'"

Working exclusively for Meridian Development and Mid-West Development Corporation, Wilson designs the interiors of some of Saskatoon's most prominent buildings. The King George Hotel conversion downtown, the award-winning Hideaway in-fill development in Nutana, and the Luxe condominium development on Broadway are part of Wilson's portfolio, as well as projects in

Simplicity defines living room style in the Opus. All images courtesy of Colleen Wilson

Edmonton, Vancouver and Seattle. While Meridian's focus is more toward residential, Mid-West's projects tap into Wilson's commercial design and decorating skills.

"I think that commercial spaces have had a huge impact on residential design," she says. "Look at this whole loft, urban living concept. A lot of that came out of industrial design and adaptive re-use of space."

The industrial components from these projects create an edgy, urban look that designers then began to create deliberately, she explains. Now, style is shifting toward something slightly more elegant.

"We're going to be designing and finishing one of the penthouses at Luxe. A lot of the ideas that the three of us have on the drawing board for the interiors have come out of things that we've seen commercially. Commercial design is hugely important.

"Probably one of the biggest trends that's had an impact on residential design is the whole hotel look," she adds. "Decorating hotels is actually commercial design. It's not residential design, even though the end user uses it as a place to stay. That whole boutique hotel look has had a huge impact on residential design."

Frequently, commercial and residential space blend together, she says. For example, restaurants, boutique shops and hotels of-



ten try to capture a residential style to help guests feel comfortable.

"There's a lot of overlap now. I'm lucky that I'm in a position where I'm exposed to that."

Echoing the sentiments of many designers, Wilson finds that inspiration often comes from being exposed to other places and cultures. Travel, whether to exotic and historic cities such as Paris or Barcelona, a bustling metropolis like New York City, or modern urban centres like Vancouver and Las Vegas, lets Wilson synthesize old and new world ideas and incorporate design elements and styles in refreshing combinations.

"One of the things that I love about travel is to see all the buildings," she says. "When we were in Paris, a few years ago, there's this hotel that I really wanted to go and see, the Hôtel Kléber. It's not one of the high profile hotels, but it's a fabulous, beautiful hotel. It's been used on movie sets. It was the hotel that the Kennedys loved to stay at when they were on less-public trips."

Located near the Eiffel Tower, the Kléber features traditional stonework, ornately-painted walls, marble floors, solid oak woodwork, a glass dome, rich fabrics and Bohemian crystal chandelier combined to create a distinctive and warm atmosphere. Among its other amenities available to guests, the hotel has a roof top deck overlooking downtown Paris. That hotel became the inspiration for the rebirth of Saskatoon's venerable King George Hotel.

"It was so beautiful," says Wilson. "I thought, why are we not using rooftops? I know in Saskatoon, we get some bad weather in the winter, but we still get some pretty nice summer nights."



Imaginative flair shows in the choice of basins and faucets in the Murano. Each one is different.

When the King George opens next year, it will incorporate a roof deck with an outdoor kitchen and green spaces.

"It'll be a great space for people who live there to be able to entertain friends in the summer."

The Parisienne influence will also influence the King George in other ways. Much of the historical detail of the hotel was destroyed in the 1960 renovation. It would have been impossible to restore the hotel, and difficult to reproduce the original style. In addition, the original architecture, with its small windows, creates a dark, cramped atmosphere that people don't accept these days. But the character of the hotel, the elegance that people remember, if not the detail, could be captured in its conversion to a

retail, commercial and residential centrepiece of the city.

"We're not going to be able to re-create the old building," says Wilson, "but we want to create something that references period design, the old European influence, which the King George originally was, and incorporate with that the kind of features that people are looking for today."

The new King George will have huge, incredible windows, says Wilson. The exterior of the building will be completed with a distinctive French flair.

"That all came out of that trip to Paris. It may be more like the George V Hotel in Paris than like the original King George, but it still harkens back to the European architectural references that are part of our Canadian history."

"I think Saskatoon is really becoming a more and more progressive city in terms of design," she adds. "We've always had a very rich appreciation for culture. People are travelling a lot now. They absorb a lot when they travel."

The entire province is coming into its own, she says. Consequently, the people who live here have a greater acceptance and desire for the styles and influences they see globally.

What we're seeing elsewhere influences how we interpret style here. We have avoided falling into the trap of simply copying what we see in other places.

"What looks absolutely perfect in New York won't look absolutely perfect in Acapulco," says Wilson. "You can go and see the most fabulous Mexican villa built somewhere on the Mexican Riviera, but you wouldn't come and build that here. It would look completely out of place."



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## A year round destination

**...Saskatoon!** - by Linda Epstein

When autumn turns Saskatoon's winding river into a painted landscape that morphs again into a winter wonderland, Saskatoon's activities also change their seasons...but not their pace. There is always something to do in Saskatchewan's largest city.

The Farmers' Market moves inside, and sports enthusiasts don their cross-country skis, snowshoes or ice skates and move outdoors into the crisp air and blue skies that are Saskatoon winters.

Spectators take in opera, symphony, ballet, drama and music that are now in full swing. Many head to the Mendel Art Gallery or countless other art galleries that dot the City...or they head to the Western Development Museum's Boomtown for the Festival of Trees or to the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo for the SIGA Enchanted Forest light display.

Saskatoon has now become part of the circuit for many high-profile entertainers with concerts that continue throughout the year. Prestigious sporting events such as the BMO Canadian Figure Skating Championships in January 2009, the World Senior Men's Fast Pitch Championships in July 2009, and the World Junior Hockey Championships 2009 - 2010, are becoming the norm in Saskatoon.

With its central location, and variety of amenities, Saskatoon has also become a desirable destination for conferences and conventions. Hotels, restaurants and shops are bustling with excitement.

*"Saskatoon is developing into what all cities should aspire to - a healthy blend of cultural character, business and good environment."*

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## Here's **what's cool** this coming season!

### Calendar of Major Events:

**Nov 21-Jan 6/09** SIGA Enchanted Forest

**Nov 23-29** Saskatoon City Hospital  
Festival of Trees

**Dec 5-7** Sundog Arts & Entertainment Faire



### 2009 Events

**Jan 12-15** Western Canadian Crop  
Production Show



**Jan 14-18** BMO Canadian Figure  
Skating Championships

**Feb 13-15** Auto Trader Motorsports Spectacular

**Feb 20-22** Family Expo

**Feb 26-Mar 1** Saskatoon Blues Festival

**Mar 5-8** Saskatoon Wildlife Federation  
Sports & Leisure Show



**Mar 19-22** Homestyles

**Mar 27-29** Gardenscape

**April 22-23** Western Canadian Livestock Expo

**Early May** Vesna Festival

**June 2-6** Saskatchewan Children's Festival

**June 5-6** Broadway Art Encounter

**June 26-July 5** SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival

**July 1** Canada Day Celebrations

**July 3-6** Prairieland Junior Ag Showcase

**July 8-Aug 23** Shakespeare on the  
Saskatchewan



**July 5** Saskatoon Pets in the Park

**July 9-11** Experience Downtown Sidewalk Sale

**July 11-12** Pion-Era

**July 16-19** Ness Creek Music Festival

**July 17-26** 2009 XXII World Men's  
Softball Championships



**July 14-19** A Taste of Saskatchewan  
presented by Conexus Credit Union

**July 30-Aug 8** Saskatoon Fringe Theatre Festival

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**The Villagio:**  
Unique and Heritage-inspired

There's an elegant row of townhouses at one of Saskatoon's oldest neighbourhood corners, near a little triangle of land where Temperance Street, Lansdowne Avenue and 14th Street intersect.

"It's in the middle of one of the greatest neighbourhoods in the city," says Wilson. "Right on the corner – how perfect is that, with the little art gallery, little restaurant. We loved building that project, because we'd just go sit at the restaurant all the time. Karl and I wanted to show that we were carrying on with Ken's reverence for heritage. Every one of those units is completely different inside."

**Above:** Savory Dining Room.

**Left:** Chateau Loire Ceiling



Instead, you might interpret the ideas and incorporate them into our local style, she says.

"You take ideas and you make them work in the context of where you are."

Wilson likes to examine movie set design. Set designers know that the work they do sets the atmosphere that audiences react to.

In the movie, *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, for example, Wilson says while everyone else was looking at the movie, she was watching the set. There's the most fantastic kitchen in that movie, she says.

"For most people, it goes unnoticed, unless that's part of your work to look at it. I get a lot of inspiration from what I see from

Bright and airy defines this living room space in the Kitsilano.

movie set designers. They are such talented people."

Television similarly influences fashion and home design, says Wilson.

"Take a show like *Mad Men*, a very popular TV show set in the early 60s. I will bet that you will start to see that come back, in clothing and then in the colours and, in turn, in interior decor – not exactly the way it was done then, but with a new edge.

"In Europe, they do a great job of being able to blend all of the historical buildings and references with ultra-modern design," says Wilson.

When you think of Italian design, she says, you tend to think of clean, sleek lines, juxtaposed against Renaissance architecture.

"You might see a room that has ornate

mouldings, that's in a building four or five hundred years old, with marble on the floors. And then you see this really clean lined furniture, like a Roche Bobois, or something like that. It looks fantastic. They've really mastered the idea of being able to blend and have a really eclectic look. People like eclectic.

"There's so much fusion and blending now, the trick is to do it right – when you're doing it for other people. When you're doing it for yourself, you only have to satisfy yourself – it doesn't matter what other people think. If you're happy in your space, that's the most important thing, that you feel good in your home, that it fits with you and reflects what you like. You can't help but have it reflect your character then."





### Miami-inspired Design The Luxe Condos on Broadway

If plans for Broadway's newest commercial and residential condominium development seem to remind you of an episode of *CSI Miami*, it's probably no accident.

"One of the big influences for that building came from South Beach in Miami," says Colleen Wilson. "The fins on that building came from that Art Deco influence, yet we didn't want something that looked just like Miami sitting in the middle of Broadway. So, we changed it with the colours and with the iron work and the use of stone – natural colours from the prairies. We wanted it to have a contemporary edge, because Broadway is very eclectic.

"It's a very eclectic looking street. When you get into some of the neighbourhoods off Broadway, where the houses are all character homes, you've got to be more careful. When we built The Hideaway, we didn't want to put a glass and steel structure, but on Broadway, you've got more leeway because it's so eclectic."

The Luxe went through quite a few transformations before the final design was set-

tled, says Wilson. Although at times it had become somewhat of a controversial development – Broadway is one of those districts with a shared sense of ownership among all the citizens of Saskatoon – Wilson and her partners were committed to coming up with a design that would blend well with the street and complement the neighbourhood, while remaining economically feasible.

### The Hideaway Arts & Crafts Meets Modern

In designing The Hideaway residential condominium in Nutana, Wilson considered the character of the neighbourhood and imagined the kind of people who would live there.

She and Miller knew that a suitable design would have to comprise traditional elements. They looked to the Arts and Crafts movement for the exterior.

"We used that as a reference point," says Wilson, "but when it actually came to the colours we didn't stay completely true, because a lot of the Arts and Crafts interiors were very dark, with very dark wood, and we didn't want them to be that dark inside."



Left: When it's completed, the Luxe on Broadway will combine Miami South Beach's Art Deco influences with prairie-inspired textures and colours found in Saskatoon.

Right: The Hideaway's open concept design blends modern and traditional.

Instead, they chose colours that would blend with and reflect the natural environment of the Saskatchewan setting. Although the design has elements to something very traditional, it's not in a staid way, says Wilson.

"It's very new looking. When we did the model, we did what we always try to do when we build. We try to put ourselves in the head space of the person who would be living there. This is the person who wants their own identity, with their own house, but probably has a lifestyle that they don't want to be married to their house, they don't want to be looking after a big yard. We thought about the character of people who like to live near Broadway area. Most of them are fairly creative people, fairly well-travelled people. We thought somebody who lives here might like this condominium life style because they travel a lot, but they still want a definition of their own home. We were trying to make it look more like a home that somebody actually lived in."



## How to Brighten Your Interior in the Seasonal Saskatoon Gloom

# THE LIGHT WITHIN

**Homeowners' choices of decorative lighting, whether lamps, chandeliers, pendants or accents, is one of the easiest decor options to add interest and energy to a room.** It shows off personal style and flair, can make a room feel warm, inviting and comfortable or the opposite. With today's home lighting trends, the feel of your home can be captured in an endless choice of lighting fixtures, textures, styles and colours.

You'll want the lighting in your home to achieve four primary functions – to serve as

a decorative element, add to the accent feel, as task lighting and to create a soft glow illumination to the entire house.

Managing partner Ward Lorenz of Richardson Lighting says styles vary greatly: "hi-tech" or "funky," traditional, or transitional which some people call "soft modern." Soft modern is "in between traditional and hi-tech," says Lorenz. "It's got nice clean lines, but not too techy looking."

With more open designs of homes, homeowners can consider a family of fixtures to



give a cohesive look to any room in the home.

Lorenz describes this as a design trend that manufacturers have introduced within the past decade or so, used to achieve a particular look with different body styles, be it pendants or chandeliers or flush mounts, that can be used throughout the home to fit different applications, but with a common look.

"A lot of the newer homes are wide open," he says. "You can see two or three different areas of the home, often all from one position, so homeowners like to have the fixtures coordinated."

Manufacturers of families of fixtures have entire lines of lighting products for the home including: chandeliers, wall sconce lighting, mini-pendant lighting, kitchen island lighting, foyer lighting, flush mount ceiling lighting and bathroom vanity lighting to name a few.

With all the new looks in fixtures, don't despair that former favourites are totally gone.

"We're starting to see a lot of crystal," says Lorenz. "Crystal's making a real comeback, but not necessarily in the traditional sense. It's crystal used in more of a contemporary styling or a contemporary frame on the fixture, more straight lines, not so frilly, twisty."

Lorenz goes on to say it is not only clear crystal but coloured crystal as well and a fair amount of black crystal.

This grand chandelier in the entrancy foyer of the home of Michelle and Ron Kurylyk was brought in by special order. Its design is echoed in the pendant lights in the kitchen and the smaller chandelier in the dining area.



Similar concept design changes have also been applied to Tiffany lamps, with updated contemporary shapes and textures.

Angela Schnitzler, design consultant with Unique Lighting, says younger people are buying houses now.

"It's not Grandma's crystal or Grandma's Tiffany any more," she says. "We have warmer colours and Tiffany shades made with jade stone."

Materials used in fixtures and the combinations of textures used together have resulted in eye-catching dramatic lighting.

"Shells are the newest thing," Schnitzler says. "We're seeing lots of natural materials, like wood, shells, rattans, stone and marble. Lots of things painted to look like more natural materials like grasses."

"We're seeing crystal with fabric, a lot," Lorenz says. "Fabric shades with crystal hanging below. Sometimes there are square or rectangular type shades with crystal or just round drum shades with crystal accents. Some of the more modern, contemporary crystal, the frames are mostly hidden and the crystal will form the shape."

As for the bulbs, there are entire energy efficiency sections in the lighting catalogues. Several of the fixtures are manufactured to fit any bulb. Halogen bulbs seem to be the most popular and are available in different shapes to suit the fixtures.

Dining room at the home of Michelle and Ron Kurylyk, featuring contemporary crystal chandelier. The chandelier's ornate design is echoed in the pendant lights in the kitchen and an impressive large chandelier that graces the main entrance foyer.





## SASKATOON HOME ROUNDTABLE

# The Elements of Saskatoon Style

**S**askatoon is a city coming into its own in terms of sophistication and developing a distinctive style to go along with it. It has a simplicity rooted in rural roots as well as modern metropolitan taste. There is a warmth that springs from the joy of community and connection as well as staying cozy and bright during the cold winter nights. Nature lends an inspiration from the prairie landscape and the river.

*Saskatoon Home* asked three of the city's leading interior designers to help define Saskatoon style as well as share their knowledge on other related topics ranging from upcoming design trends to favourite rooms, colour schemes and design trends.

## What are the elements that define Saskatoon interior design style to you?

**Zvacek:** Saskatoon is hungry for more in terms of interior design and is making a name for itself in the interior design industry. Saskatoon interior design blends together urban and rural design and lifestyle influences. The people of Saskatoon don't want to become so "big city" that they lose their rural community orientated roots.

Saskatoon residents love the sense of family and community that comes from our rural roots

and are always looking for ways to allow for people to better interact throughout rooms in their homes. Hence, creating more open concept living spaces, where people in many different rooms can interact with one another, without being confined to one small room. We've definitely seen a trend where people are steering away from having such formal rooms and having more of a casual interactive floor plan. Our Saskatoon clients want to create inviting warm environments that are comfortable and practical with a touch of something special.

**Kurylyk:** I believe the key element is the beautiful river that runs through our city. This is where we gather with friends and family to enjoy so many pleasures, from a leisurely stroll to numerous seasonal activities that take place along the river bank. It is an amazing and beautiful downtown that will only get better with all the new development we are seeing. When walking along Meewasin Trail, it is apparent how we still have the small town feel as you are greeted by many people with a smile and friendly "hello." Whether traditional or contemporary, it is the simple pleasures we enjoy as Saskatonians that is communicated through our design style as an uncomplicated elegance. We all have our own unique style, and when combined with the necessary balance and harmony, the possibilities are endless.

**Grove:** Style is a word used to describe the whole of the decisions made that result in our built environment. These are the relationships between person, place, and time. Drilled into us at school is the idea that the best design is found in nature. When we look to nature, we can see systems that have adapted beautifully to support our interface with the natural, physical world. All design is ostensibly for us, so it is for nature and within nature that style develops. Yet in our information age, where so much information is instantly available, many styles are open to us, yet, style becomes a very personal and unique thing.

**PLACE:** Our place has many attributes, such as levelness, openness, subtleness and isolation. Our place has its own unique colour palette, indigenous materials, and resources. It is when we embrace our location, when we look to it to lead us in material and colour choices, use of texture, etc. that we begin to develop our own style. This style will be unique to each, yet grounded and unified in this place.

**TIME:** Not many notable building influences since the late 50s. This fact is working well in our favor. We stand at a critical time where the decisions we will make about our built environment today will affect generations to come. We are at a time when strong leadership, courage, and strength are needed in our planning and approval process, so we will provide healthy buildings and interior environments with low



embodied energy, and sensitivity to the depletion of our natural resources.

**PEOPLE:** This is where the unique and individual qualities are seen, as no two of us are the same. As a designer, I strive to understand the families I design space for, so their wants and needs are addressed within. This approach has allowed me to explore and reinterpret different looks and styles, creating individual interiors uniquely suited to the client.

The biggest fear I have is that we become a generic city, with all the same stores and outlets as every other city on the continent. *Same as all other bigger cities image does not equal style*, at least not style unique to us as people living in Saskatchewan, or more specifically Saskatoon. Do we really need another Tim Horton's? Do they need one in Kandahar? Also, a pervasive development strategy of minimizing costs equals no style. Just look at Persephone Theatre – the best lot in town, and the city approves a grey box ... no art, no spirit, no longevity.

## Where would you say Saskatoon style has its origins?

**Zvacek:** We all know a large percentage of Saskatchewan residence have rural roots and many of them have migrated to larger Saskatchewan centers such as Saskatoon, bringing with them their practicality and sense of community. In turn, Saskatoon residence are looking to larger centers such as Calgary, Vancouver and Toronto, where the design industry is more developed, in which to pull resources back to Saskatchewan. As such, this creates the mix between the rural and urban design influences in Saskatoon.

**Kurylyk:** As prairie people, it dates back to our farming communities. You would work hard and get together around the kitchen table to eat, drink and converse. We have a special connection to our land now and in the days gone by. We still continue to be a close-knit community even though we have grown immensely and we show-

case this through our great style as the little "Paris" of the prairies.

**Grove:** Where Saskatoon is excelling is in its drive to keep the inner city vital and active by encouraging more live/work spaces, as seen in the loft conversions of late. This is also inherent in some neighbourhood incentive programs for new residents, as in Riversdale.

## Do you see any major upcoming design trends, in general, and unique to Saskatoon in particular?

**Zvacek:** The entire design industry is seeing a shift in many people's mentality, in that now we're seeing people wanting to take advantage of the convenience that new technology has brought us, such as having your home wired with built in speakers and iPod docking stations, being able to control all electronics with a universal remote or purchasing high tech "smart" appliances that

## Saskatoon Home Roundtable

### PARTICIPANTS

#### Adrienne Zvacek BID, Principal Designer of Studio 2.0 Interior Design Consultants

Adrienne Zvacek is the Principal Designer of Studio 2.0 Interior Design Consultants. She has her bachelor of applied interior design degree from Mount Royal College in Calgary and is a proud provisional member of the Interior Designers Association of Saskatchewan. Adrienne was born and raised in Saskatchewan and now calls

Saskatoon home. She specializes in new construction and renovation projects in both the residential and commercial sectors of Saskatchewan. For more information about Studio 2.0 Interior Design Consultants please call 306.262.6884 or visit [www.studio2point0.ca](http://www.studio2point0.ca).

#### Michelle Kurylyk owner, Tres Chic Interiors & Aspen West Construction

Michelle has been involved in the decorating and design of homes constructed through family operated businesses for more than 20 years. She was in the banking industry for 17 years until March 2007 when

she decided to pursue her passion and love for design and decorating full time, along with new home construction. She holds a professional design and decorating diploma. She enjoys being an active member of the diverse Saskatoon community from tree decorating for the Festival of Trees to being a member of the Saskatoon Women's Network.

**Happy Grove**  
BA, DID, Principal, HAPPY-LIVINGSPACE Design Studio  
HAPPYLIVINGSPACE is the result of 19 years of education and experience in the interior

design industry. Happy received his interior design training from both Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, and Mount Royal College in Calgary. Happy is also a certified shiatsu practitioner. Happy believes that people can be happy and healthy in spaces that embody the expression of their true selves. Conjoined with this is our awareness of self in relation to the bigger picture, our environment. Awareness of our desires of minimizing environmental impact and embodied energy are important to the decisions we make as to how to form and detail our built environment.



have the ability to remember specific user's settings. We've been seeing for a while now that people are taking better care of themselves. They are working out and going to the spa more. Now large spa bathrooms, home gyms, home theater rooms, and full sized bars are becoming more popular as people are taking advantage of convenience in their homes and creating home retreat areas.

**Kurylyk:** The "less is more" trend is gearing-up as we try to attain a reasonable work/life balance. We are taking on a greener lifestyle with a focus on the environment and things are going back to being organic and environmentally friendly. This is apparent with all the programs now in place to make Saskatoon green and more sustainable.

**Grove:** New and unique design trends will actually become the traditional way of approaching design in general. Our attention to the greenness of our decisions, assessing the collateral costs of our decisions, weighing the embodied

energy as well as the immediate costs will become the norm. For example, granite from Italy has higher embodied energy than granite from Canada. Design professionals must use these newer ways of analyzing decisions, and educate the consumer as much as possible in order to make healthy decisions.

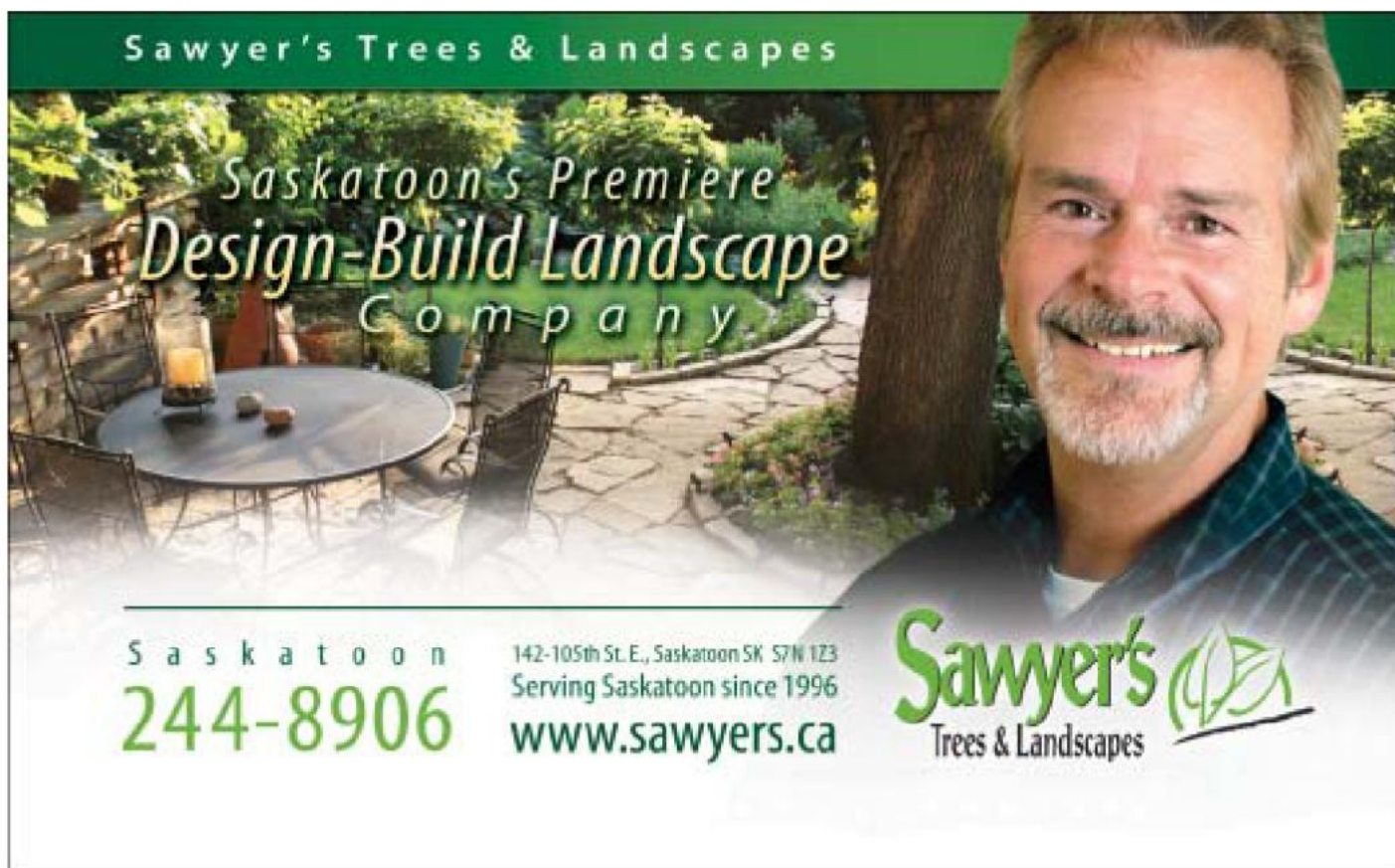
**What room in the house would you say is the focal point of the house and why?**

**Zvacek:** The kitchen has always been the heart of the home, however, we are seeing a slight shift in the focal point of the home. Instead of the focal point just being the kitchen it is now on the main living area, which may include the kitchen, living and dining rooms. Again going back to the sense of community, people want to establish especially in the public areas of their home an open living concept. I should make a note that though the sense of community is prevalent in public spaces of the home, most people are wanting to

make the private areas of their home more intimate. Even in older homes, many people want to open up these formerly closed in public spaces to simulate the open feel many of the new homes are being built with.

**Kurylyk:** I believe the focal point of your home could be your kitchen/dining room or maybe it is your living room/great room. Your focal point is wherever you want to spend time and enjoy friends, family and conversation. It is the room that invites you in and says "Sit down and stay awhile." It makes you happy to be there and comforts you like no other space in your home.

**Grove:** There is no one answer to this question. In essence, it is the family that determines the focal point. I always try to explore and understand these energetic qualities or beliefs, so as to support the family needs within the design solutions. For some, the kitchen and dining rooms are the heart of the home. For some, the living areas (spaces for conversations, dialogue



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and entertaining) are most important. Some people emphasize their needs for some open, and some more individuated spaces. Some clients love the all in one "great room" idea. Each of these room descriptions will appeal to some but not others, so finding out how your client wants to live, and what they like and dislike about their existing space, is the first step to determining what areas become focal points over others.

### What is your favourite room in the house to design or decorate?

**Zvacek:** My favorite room in a home to design is the main living space, consisting of the kitchen, living and dining rooms. I love the fact that this area of the home can showcase many architectural details, such as a fireplace, volume changes, cabinet arrangements and style, an island, and various levels of lighting. This area often receives a bit more attention and is a great investment for resale.

**Kurylyk:** That's a tough question! When I am designing a room, I have a vision on how I want it to look after we have had our consultations and made the decisions on how we want to run with it. When it transforms into a reality, I find the finished product so gratifying. It usually starts off by using something that you absolutely love and working on from there. It is always nice to have a piece that is meaningful to the client. I also like to add a little sparkle, something that pops and says "WOW." If it is the bedroom I am designing, I like to create a romantic, cozy, relaxing space, a room where you can relax your cares away in your own personal oasis. When designing the living room/great room, I want it to be a comfortably elegant place to gather, entertain and have conversation and also connect the family unit.

**Grove:** The powder room. It's a stand alone room, and can have a really strong personality. Guests see it, and that equals an opportunity to do something fun. Family use it regularly. Again,

a small area to do something fantastic in, make it a treat! It's a small area, so there's the ability to use more special or different finishes.

### What are some of your favourite styles of interior design or furnishing?

**Zvacek:** I love working with all styles and working with the client to determine their personal style and creating a space and environment around each person's unique style. However, my personal style is a mix of contemporary with some light traditional elements. Some of the elements I personally enjoy are: interior stone, warm inviting tones, raw exposed materials, clean lines and the use of texture and shades as opposed to many different colours. I love bringing nature into the space and creating a floor plan that has an open concept public space, while creating a very intimate private space.



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**Kurylyk:** Some of my favourite styles are the 20th century styles of Bauhaus. It is sometimes referred to as minimalism – less is more. The Bauhaus concept was born in the early years of the century and did not explode into international prominence until after World War I. It was a time for new ideas. A time for change that is simple yet functional.

I also quite enjoy Italian Modern which is a union of Bauhaus and Art Deco. It is very contemporary with a high style factor. I was very fortunate to visit Italy last year to see the most amazing architectural buildings and furnishings. You really are awe struck when you experience the amazing wonders of Rome, Pompei, Sorrento, Milan, and the numerous other cities and villages of Italy.

Another of my favourites is Louis XVI with its simple straight lines to glam things up a bit. I love adding a little sparkle, something that's unique and has that 'wow' factor. This could be the use of a chandelier or lamps that have the look of chandeliers. I have also used a product called Shimmer Screen that is always a conversation piece. I love hearing, "Where on earth did you find that?" We have many great interior design stores in our vibrant city and are very fortunate to have such great and unique selections.

**Grove:** Marie Helene de Rothschild once said something like: Literal reproduction of periods or styles is unimaginative, and only mimicry. It is through the reinterpretation of periods or styles that creates unique exciting and new expressions.

This may be especially true within the use of colour. For example: Spanish style architecture is fine in any location, as long as it reflects the homeowner's dreams and aspirations. Yet pink and other soft pastel stucco are out of place in some locales. Earthy and warm colours look much more inviting and appropriate here in Saskatoon than soft pinks and oranges.

I'm an eclectic when it comes to furniture styles, I love good design, and pleasing lines, I love Beidermeier antique furniture as much as mid century modern. I love to introduce something unexpected. For example, in my library, filled with old books and an old oak desk, quite

Dickensian, I introduced a Charles Eames leather and aluminum desk chair. Each unique element gives clarity and focus to all.

### **Are some colour schemes, wall materials and flooring more suitable to Saskatoon's interior spaces than other colours and materials?**

**Zvacek:** Fortunately, or unfortunately depending on how you look at it, Saskatoon is in the winter season for five to six months of the year. A great option especially in Saskatoon's winter months is adding heated floors, especially in areas such as in your entry and bathroom, to ensure your toes stay warm. Because of Saskatoon's winter season, having a cool colour scheme may leave the space feeling cold and not as inviting especially in the winter months. However, if a cool colour scheme is what you love, consider adding a couple of slashes of warm color throughout your space.

When choosing hardwood flooring, and especially when selecting exotic flooring, be conscious about the humidity levels in your home. Ensure to ask your flooring professional about how the specific flooring you are considering will withstand our winter season and your home's specific humidity levels.

**Kurylyk:** Our colour schemes tend to be more subdued and neutral, although there is nothing wrong with adding a punch of colour to create interest and spark conversation. In general, we do not see the same colour schemes in Saskatoon that are applied in Mexico. As far as wall materials it is generally drywall since plastered walls are very costly. Wallpaper has resurfaced and is making a dramatic comeback. The newest wallpaper trends emphasize sophisticated patterns. Wall decals can add interest to walls as well and if you want to make a focal point, why not add ceramic tile or brick to a wall? Suitable flooring in Saskatoon can vary from using tile, vinyl, hardwoods, carpeting, even leather. The choices are endless and varied and should not only reflect personal style, but also take into account the practicality of some products in certain rooms of your home.

**Grove:** Materials must be carefully selected to meet the functional needs, and things that work well in some locales don't translate well to others. For example, bamboo flooring is a great new alternate to wood products. The material itself is fast growing, durable and cost effective, yet here in Saskatoon our humidity levels fluctuate throughout the year, and this causes expansion and shrinking of this product when installed on the floor. The key to success is to offer your client material choices (and discuss the functionality of each choice) that will stand up to the task at hand, as well as the "new thing."

### **What are some of the most "green" or sustainable things a person could do to enhance their home?**

**Zvacek:** It has been said that your windows and doors are the biggest culprits for heat loss in your home. Therefore, selecting the proper windows and doors will help save on your heating bill and make your home a bit greener. As well, when considering purchasing new appliances, furnace or hot water heater, ensure you are selecting products that are Energy Star or better. Installing a programmable thermostat that automatically turns down the temperature at night and back up in the morning will take one extra thing off your mind when trying to reduce your energy consumption.

Adding a motion sensor faucet to your bathrooms will ensure water is only being used when it needs to be and doesn't run while you're brushing your teeth, for example. Adding dual flush toilets and shower heads that add high-pressure air to your shower water all assist in reducing water consumption.

But, the quickest and cheapest way to make your home "greener" is changing all your home's light bulbs to compact fluorescent bulbs, as they use 1/3 less power and last 10 times as long as a regular bulb.

**Kurylyk:** There is an abundance of green items such as: using a Energy Star appliances and furnace, R50 insulation in the attic along with



weather stripping, solar hot water systems, low flush toilets, programmable thermostats, recycling and compost. Use green environmentally friendly household products, non-toxic paints; and energy-efficient bulbs to name a few. A good portion of the green ideas offer rebates or GST exemption through the Saskatchewan government and SaskEnergy.

**Grove:** *Awareness* first. Again, no easy answer after ... Be aware of what you are bringing into your home. This goes for daily/weekly items as well as the bigger, perhaps one time purchases. The first thing for any client to determine is what their own desires are in this area. If awareness and desire are great, we might see them already using the least harmful cleaning supplies (vinegar and water, and baking soda for abrasive needs will pretty much do everything). Imagine all those pretty bottles of colourful liquids in the cleaning aisle of the grocery store – they all eventually end up down the drain and into our water system.

Watch out about the new energy efficient fluorescent light bulbs, as they contain mercury. The city will accept these with their other toxic material pick-ups. However, the dump has no facility to dispose of these currently. Their policy is to include this in the regular refuse. The dump is right beside the river folks, and it is truly up to us to take affirmative action to ensure no mercury goes there.

Try to select finishes made from natural materials, locally produced wherever possible. For example, I was discussing flooring for a lower level concrete floor. We narrowed it down to a laminate flooring or Marmoleum. Each had a similar cost, each had its own unique look. We discussed the environmental impact of the manufacture of each and that's where the answer lay. In the past we talked about "cradle to grave" life attributes of materials or finishes. The cradle is the earth, and the grave being the dump. Now we talk about cradle to cradle attributes, which then includes what happens after the carpet goes to the dump.

At each juncture where replacing something worn out or getting something new, it is up to each of us to practice out intelligence, to select things for their green attributes versus their sex appeal. There are excellent paint products that are eco-friendly. Think of cleaning your brushes...where do you do that...what happens to the water? When the old ones go, select energy efficient appliances-choose to have less electrical appliances. Insulation, windows and doors are a focal point for energy savings. Furniture manufacturers are sometimes taking a stewardship role by growing their own woods for frames. Cottons and other fabrics are now manufactured in more ecologically sensitive ways, less bleach, etc. Every time you replace something get informed, and select the best, most efficient solution you are willing to afford. Each small step adds up. The idea is to use less, to be satisfied with efficiency versus "bling."

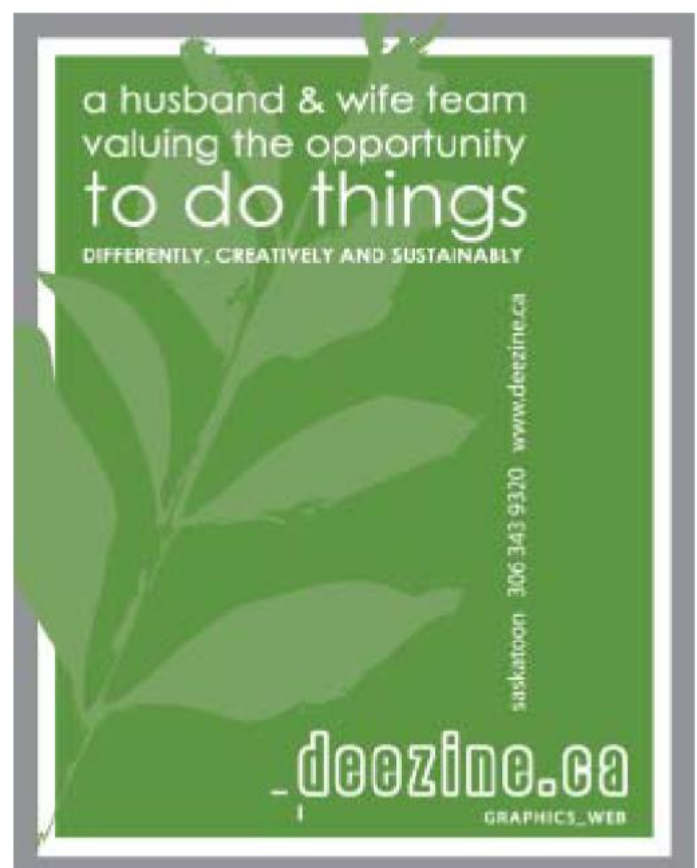


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## SPOTLIGHT



### Post and Beam Palace

#### Octagon Log Home with Wrap-Around Country Views

**It might be the bright red roof that first catches everyone's eye, but it's the building under it that's turning heads.**

When Stephen and Denyse Klette first began building their

house in Silverado Estates, off Highway 11, 17 km south of Saskatoon, the sight of the octagonal post-and-beam structure rising out of the prairie landscape drew quite a bit of attention. It would have been an impressive sight, even from the highway, but up close and before any walls were erected, the tall cedar posts tapering upwards from the roots looked like a

newly-formed forest sprouting for the sky. No wonder the couple was constantly shooing away curious trespassers.

"We both have always loved the look and feel of a logs," says Denyse, a Saskatoon-born artist. "Also, we didn't want to build a city house in the country. We loved the octagon and open floor plan."

"The huge windows every-

This octagonal post and beam house with the bright red roof attracts a lot of attention from people passing by on the Regina highway 17 km south of Saskatoon. Denyse and Stephen Klette have been lovingly working on this home for more than a year.

where will allow us to enjoy the scenery all around the house. So many house designs are built for city homes, where there are only windows on the front and the back of the house."



The home is based on an award-winning full log home designed by RCMCAD Design Drafting Ltd., an architectural timber frame and log home design business based in Abbotsford, B.C. Fabrication and assembly of the components were done by Cascade Handcrafted Log Homes of Chilliwack, B.C. The red cedar posts and Douglas fir beams, weighing 40,000 pounds altogether, were brought out from B.C.

"We asked RCM if it was possible to change it to a post-and-beam with minor floor plan

changes," says Denyse. "Within days, they changed it and Cyril also found a log builder, Dan Coulter and Markus Dehaas, owners of Cascade Handcrafted Log Homes. They were reliable to work with and able to squeeze it into our time frame. Everyone from RCM and Cascade were incredible to work with."

For all their charm, style and strength, post-and-beam buildings are rare in Saskatchewan. Builders and contractors with the knowledge and expertise to build this type of house are few and far between. The Klettes found that they had to develop

the skill themselves. The experience has helped Stephen expand his electrical contracting business into home building, specializing in post-and-beam construction.

It's been a year since Stephen and Denyse, started construction. They expect the house will be ready to move into before Christmas.

**Left:** A large British Columbia red cedar post rises through the centre of the post and beam house.

**Top:** During early stages of construction, before the exterior walls were put in place, the tapered red cedar posts looked as if a forest had begun sprouting out of the prairie. Photo by Chelsea Klette.



# REVIEW

## Willingdon Place Historic Cul-De-Sac Has Character and Charm

Stuck in rush hour traffic on Idylwyld Drive, it's easy to miss a unique slice of Saskatoon's history. Willingdon Place comprises a dozen period homes surrounding a short boulevard tucked among the trees abutting the east side of the grounds of Caswell School. This tiny street is a quiet enclave that stands out for its unusual character, even within a picturesque neighbourhood like Caswell Hill. The only way in or out is from Idylwyld, and only from the southbound lanes of that busy thoroughfare. It's a short two-block walk from Ashworth-Holmes Park, the green space that most people associate as the centre of Caswell Hill.

On the whole, the mere mention of Caswell Hill invokes visions of the wide boulevards that pass through the neighbourhood. Along with the beautiful heritage homes and churches, the heavily treed streets set the tone for the character and charm that everyone associates with the area. Although few people have had the opportunity to see it first hand,



the cul-de-sac in Willingdon Place is among the most beautiful boulevards in the city.

In fact, the short street provides a unique example of the first crescent-shaped development in Saskatoon. The 12 houses on Willingdon Place were designed by local architect Frank P. Martin and completed in 1927 and 1928, some 22 years after the Caswell Hill subdivision was established. Each is a prime example of the Arts and Crafts Movement that was popular in Canada in the 1920s and 1930s. At the time of construction, the homes were



placed on the market for \$6,350 to \$7,000 each (\$79,850 to \$88,000 in 2008 dollars).

The Caswell Hill Local Area Plan notes that residents have a strong desire to maintain the

character of the housing within the neighbourhood. They are concerned with infill development being constructed that does not respect the character of the housing that already exists.



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# STANDARDS

## Harmony and Balance

### What makes a feel-good home feel good

We all want our homes to feel comfortable, a place where we can relax and truly enjoy the space we live in. Increasingly, this also extends to homes that are healthier for us and the environment.

"Homes that impart the individual senses spontaneously without consciousness of effort," is how senior designer, Tammy Thorson-Manchur with Symphony Group of Companies describes this feel-good factor of design.

"Remember a time when you walked into a home, or threshold of a home, and how it created a memory," she says. "You either liked it or disliked it."

Homeowners may not know a bad layout design but they will know when something doesn't quite feel right. Maybe the design is stifling relationships inside the home or impeding accessibility with badly placed doorways or stairways.

"Design layout and how it functions is very important to the harmony and balance in a home," says Thorson-Manchur. "Is there enough storage? Is there enough light? Are the

placement of the walls too restrictive?"

To help facilitate a client's needs, she develops a relationship with them to gain a sense of what they want.

By way of finding out more about them, Thorson-Manchur says she has clients do some homework by having them create a memory board or clipping collage in order for them to organize their thoughts.

"I find this so helpful, as often I can pinpoint one thing that is consistent in all the pictures that shares a lot about the client, even though the client may not vocalize it."

Design techniques can make homes feel inviting and cozy, flow logically from one room to the next and move effortlessly from indoors to out. This could mean designing more open spaces to create a feeling of spaciousness. Or, perhaps a place to relax with reading chairs in bedrooms or artwork placement that creates a stimulating environment.

Colour also provides an option to creating the feel-good factor of a home. Paints, wall textures and utilizing the sun and natural environment gives choice for enhancing comfort.

Homeowners looking for sustainable housing and reducing

the impact on the environment can also live healthier lives within their homes. Options for purchasing eco-friendly furniture, flooring and carpeting are

becoming more prolific. There are more homes built with non-allergic materials and greater emphasis on natural lighting and heating.



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# SUPPLIERS

## The Evolved Bathroom Now Eco-friendly "Rest" Rooms

When I was six, my father tacked up what he thought was a very funny sign on the bathroom door. It was a picture of an old woman, who alarmingly resembled the Quaker Oats man. In a bubble over her head, she barked, "Rest room? Hell, I ain't tired. Where's the can?"

A) I didn't get it, and B) I avoided the bathroom for as long as I could. Under her glare, it was not a relaxing place to be. But now, all that's changing.

In fact, the scary—or at least dull—old bathroom is becoming "a spa with an eco twist," according to Gord Bethel, owner of The Plumb Shoppe. "It's not just a tub, a sink and a toilet anymore." Turning the utilitarian bathroom into a home spa with a steam shower and a massage tub—creating an *environment*—is part of transforming the old loo into a destination, not just a whistle stop.

It has to do with "cocooning," says Bethel. In recent years, people are staying in more, watching movies, working out in home gyms, he says. People want the pampering and relaxation of a home spa, but there's also an element of responsibility that reflects current earth stewardship concerns.

"With all the green messages, eco-friendly this and carbon tax that," says Bethel, "we've seen a definite increase in concern by our customers who want faucets and toilets that use less water."

His company has long been moving in that direction. Researching eco-friendly products is important, he insists. An alleged "water-friendly" toilet that needs to be flushed twice isn't saving water or money. Quality products that work properly and last are key.

Combined with a strong trend toward European design (white, squarish and contemporary lines) and a desire for beautiful fixtures, is the customer demand for water conservation. Leah, a showroom consultant with Gregg's Plumbing

and Heating, points to a commitment to "reduce water consumption without compromising the water experience." Customers renovating or building new are more interested than ever before in the Water Sense status of bathroom fixtures which can save an average household 30 per cent of water, or up to 30,000 gallons a year.

"Today, people do want the spa experience at home," Leah says. "They've traveled to Europe, to Asia; they want that very clean, contemporary look. They also want at least the guest half bath to be a showpiece. Vessel sinks have an artistic influence; the bowl design in glass, for example, can be an exceptional piece of art."

There's a knack to getting the spa look down. While stainless steel is great in the kitchen, polished chrome reflects the European trend in the bathroom. "And bathroom faucets are like jewelry," Leah notes. "They should all be the same. Don't mix and match."

Leah says the feng shui influence has crept its way into the bathroom

and customers are opting for less cluttered, more open spaces. Thermostatic showers, double adjustable showerheads, and channel bath fillers instead of the noisy old aerated pressure stream are all elements of the new "silent and soothing" bathroom environment.

■ KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER

## The Details

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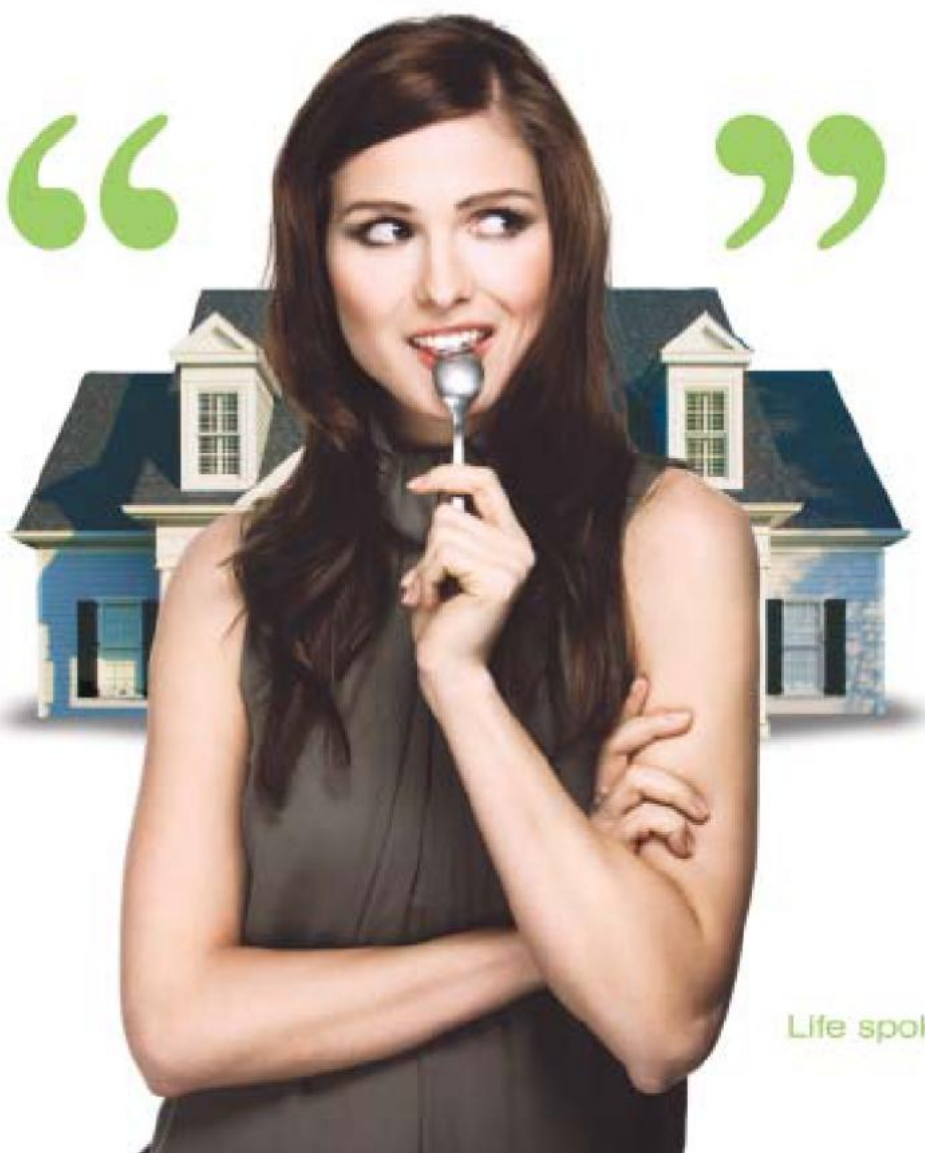
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# THE ROOM

## Super Garage Ideas

Turn your garage into a space you can be proud of.

It used to be the garage was a cold, impersonal place for the family car plus whatever else could be crammed along the sides. For some of us, there's so much stuff in there, there's no place left to put the car!

Not only that, but these days, with most garages attached to the house, there's a real need to store and organize all the tools, accessories and substances that we use to keep our homes functioning smoothly.

Fortunately, there are plenty of ways to tame that clutter, whether it's just a few things that you regularly trip over on your way in and out, or the kind of mess that threatens to force the car out onto the street.

If it's only a matter of getting



things up off the floor, a good place to start is by adding hooks, shelves and baskets to the walls or ceiling. Most people are already familiar with hooks that they might use to hang the garden rake or snow shovel, but specialized versions are available to take your golf bag, bicycle or canoe. Some of these systems include elaborate mechanisms for raising and lowering the heavier items you need to store. Shelving is simple to install and makes for an easy and quick solution. Wire shelving

and baskets are perfect for irregular items that would fall or roll off of wood or melamine shelves. They're great for boots and shoes, for instance. Enclosed baskets can take care of the small, loose items like that garden hose nozzle that you keep misplacing.

Modular workbenches install quickly and adapt to your available space. Steel frames topped with hardwood work surfaces provide sturdy support. Commonly available in six and eight foot sections that dock together,

Geneva Garage Gear modular storage components, by Geneva Manufacturing Company, are available from Garage Boyz in Saskatoon. The top row of cabinetry uses Geneva's two or three shelf 19-inch and 30-inch wall cabinets (from \$195, with doors) and shelf units (from \$110, without doors), with recessed pull handles and continuous reinforced piano hinges. Sports gear and storage lockers (from \$449) feature 32,400 cubic inches of capacity within their five-foot heights. Base cabinets (from \$449) and drawer units (from \$569) fit conveniently under the modular workbench. Workbenches (from \$569) come in six or eight foot lengths, topped by a 24 inch by 1-1/2 inch thick butcher block style top with radius edge treatment and finished in clear lacquer for chemical resistance. Metal parts are welded construction, protected by electrostatically powder coated finishes. Lockers and base cabinets ride on heavy duty swivel casters for increased mobility. Locking front casters keep the cabinets in place. Available in red or Mohave.

they'll turn a corner into a functional work area, as well as fill a wall longer than your car. Need a little more organization, some storage for hand or power tools? Install steel cabinets or drawers. Cabinetry is available with strong castors, so you can wheel your

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tools to where you need to use them. Finish the workbench with a durable back splash. Most back splashes are designed to accept accessories for hanging tools within easy reach, and many come with integrated electrical outlets.

For intense organization, steel wall cabinets and lockers add voluminous, secure storage to the garage. Wall storage cabinets go up in jiffy and get rid of wasted space on the wall to maximize storage capacity. They can be mounted above work benches, much the same way as the cabinets over your kitchen countertops, or on their own grouped and stacked together with other storage.

With the walls looking so good, it's hard to put up with



that same old bare concrete floor. There are a variety of flooring materials that not only make the space look better, but also improve safety with their

textured, non-slip, stain-resistant surfaces.

If it isn't enough to be able to get your smaller items out of the way, there are portable lifts that

enable you to stack your ATVs, snowmobiles and even your cars. The sky's the limit. Well, actually, your ceiling's the limit, but you get the idea.

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# THE CITY

## Developers Invited to Rehabilitate McNab Park Duplexes

The City of Saskatoon has entered into a partnership with Innovative Residential Inc. to determine if the existing duplex housing stock of McNab Park can be reused as affordable housing. This project will also demonstrate that the duplexes can be moved and reused in different locations within Saskatoon. The City would like to encourage housing developers to undertake the rehabilitation of the remaining housing units in McNab Park.

The Demonstration Project is intended to demonstrate that the dwellings can be renovated to accomplish three main objectives: meet all health and safety code requirements; be made attractive to blend into existing residential areas; and remain affordable to people seeking an entry-level dwelling.

The McNab Park area contains 162 existing dwelling units comprised mainly of two-unit and multiple-unit dwellings. The dwellings were constructed in 1952 by the federal government for Royal Canadian Air Force personnel training at the



McNab Duplex - Option A  
May 30, 2008

airport. Up to 106 of the dwelling units are considered to be in movable condition and offer the opportunity for the re-use of the existing housing stock in new locations. Sixty of these units are being moved by Innovative Residential to sites in Confederation Suburban Centre where they will be renovated and offered as entry-level housing.

If successful, this project could generate the creation of up to 46 additional rehabilitated housing units available to residents within the income guidelines for provincial affordable housing. These units would be available for placement throughout the city, providing upgraded, safe, and affordable housing units within existing residential areas.

Innovative Residential Inc. is acting as project manager of the McNab Park Affordable Housing Demonstration, and has undertaken upgrades to the Dem-

onstration Project. They have installed new siding, roofing, exterior insulation, energy-efficient doors, and windows and replaced the kitchen and wash-

room with modern facilities. Interior insulation has been upgraded and drywall repaired and painted. Electrical, plumbing and building codes have been addressed, existing features refurbished where possible and all negative appearance issues addressed.

All of the information gathered during the demonstration project will be compiled in a report and presented to City Council and made available to the public.

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F: 306.664.6844  
E: czvacek@studio2point0.ca  
W: www.studio2point0.ca

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F: 306.978.8177  
E: info@beautycraft.ca  
W: www.beautycraft.ca

**Kitchen & Bath Retailers****Kitchen & Bath Classics**

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W: www.kitchenandbathclassics.ca

**The Plumb Shoppe**

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W: www.plumbshoppe.com

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F: 306.244.8908  
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W: www.sawyers.ca

**Marketing & Design****deezine**

Daren & Tamila McLean  
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W: www.mondovidevelopments.com

**Realtors****Coldwell Banker/Rescom Realty**

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F: 306.652.0929  
E: alcott@sasktel.net  
W: www.coldwellbankersaskatoon.com

**Remax**

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F: 306.978.8177  
E: carlo@beautycraft.ca  
W: www.garageboyz.ca

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F: 306.373.7977  
E: snhwp@sasktel.net  
W: www.nhwp.org

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# BACKWORDS

## When the Stuff of Life Becomes the Art of Wow

I've done plenty of thinking about interior design in the last 2-1/2 years as I continue to work my way through what feels like an endless series of renovations to a 25-year-old townhouse. Although there have been frustrations and compromises along the way, I've also discovered the satisfactions of using lots of power tools, learning new skills and exercising a personal design aesthetic on a limited budget.

It's taken me a while to get comfortable with my designed self. It's a life's worth of accumulated experience. I don't know what to call it, but it leans toward the modern and the minimalist. It hates clutter. It loves textures, natural materials and shots of bright colour, hues which are now so etched into my imagination that I can spot my own particular shade of orange across a store without referring to a swatch. It steers me toward well-designed, lean, practical objects which can change their shape, move around and fulfill more than one function. It has an intensity which makes the newcomers to my home notice things and ask "what's that over



there?" It also has a rapacious appetite for HGTV and high-end design magazines.

As a thoroughly post-modern home renovator, I am acutely aware of our economy's dependence on constant consumption. Consumption has become a way to not only fill our emptiness, but also to give ourselves an identity. We are increasingly defined by what we buy. And in a world constructed by advertising, according to media critic Leslie Savan, we are living a sponsored life. Our sponsors are the companies

which have provided their product placements in our homes and our activities. Our own personal experiences are being sold back to us, reconstituted with commercial messages and values.

It's a rather dour perspective, you might be thinking. But one need look no further than the stack of magazines on my living room floor (still awaiting its new laminate) to find examples of how the purchasing the right product will signify, to someone who understands the vocabulary, that the buyer is one smart

and savvy cookie.

Your choice of tableware is "simply a matter of taste." A particular shade of paint is "the colour of confidence." Bathroom fixtures provide "Prestige. Performance. Perfection." Your furniture allows "living in the spirit of the moment." Your kitchen appliances are "the art of wow." And your kitchen becomes a stage where "you can freeze a moment in your mind, lock a taste in your heart and hold a smile forever."

This is pretty compelling stuff. Who wouldn't want to be tasteful, confident, perfect and living in the spirit of the moment? Why buy a mere dishwasher when you can buy the art of wow? And even if you don't cook, a kitchen in which poetic moments happen would probably be a good thing, especially when it comes to resale.

But whose decision is it, after all, when it comes to the look and feel of our personal spaces? Do we surrender to the programming and perpetual shopping, or, in the other extreme, avoid the whole scenario by living in a frayed domestic time warp where change or improvement never happens? How can we turn down the volume on the commercial messages and find our way back to a personal aes-



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### Did You Know ?

When you want to start your renovation, it may take up to 8 months to 1 year to complete from the design stage to the finished product!

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thetic that more accurately reflects an authentic, unsponsored self? By what standards do we edit the stuff of our lives?

In a world where trends are perpetually shifting and television personalities are paid to issue deceptively witty judgments about what we wear and how we live, it's not surprising that we lack confidence about our choices. This is why we need designers. They are our mediators, navigators and negotiators in a world of options. As some of the world's best problem solvers, they bring fresh eyes, new ideas, raw intuition and a lot of experience into the process. They ask us simple questions (which we often struggle to answer) about our habits, our lifestyles, our likes and dislikes and our budget. They will probably ask why we thought it was a good idea to paint the bathroom purple. And then they will help us change it.

It's a rare client (although they do exist) who wholeheartedly surrenders the decisions and the budget to the designer. How many of us, for example, give our hairdressers completely free rein? We usually provide some instructions, albeit vague and haphazard ones: a little off the top but not too short. Household interiors are far more complex. We all need kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms, but our perceptions of how we truly use and occupy them may be part reality and

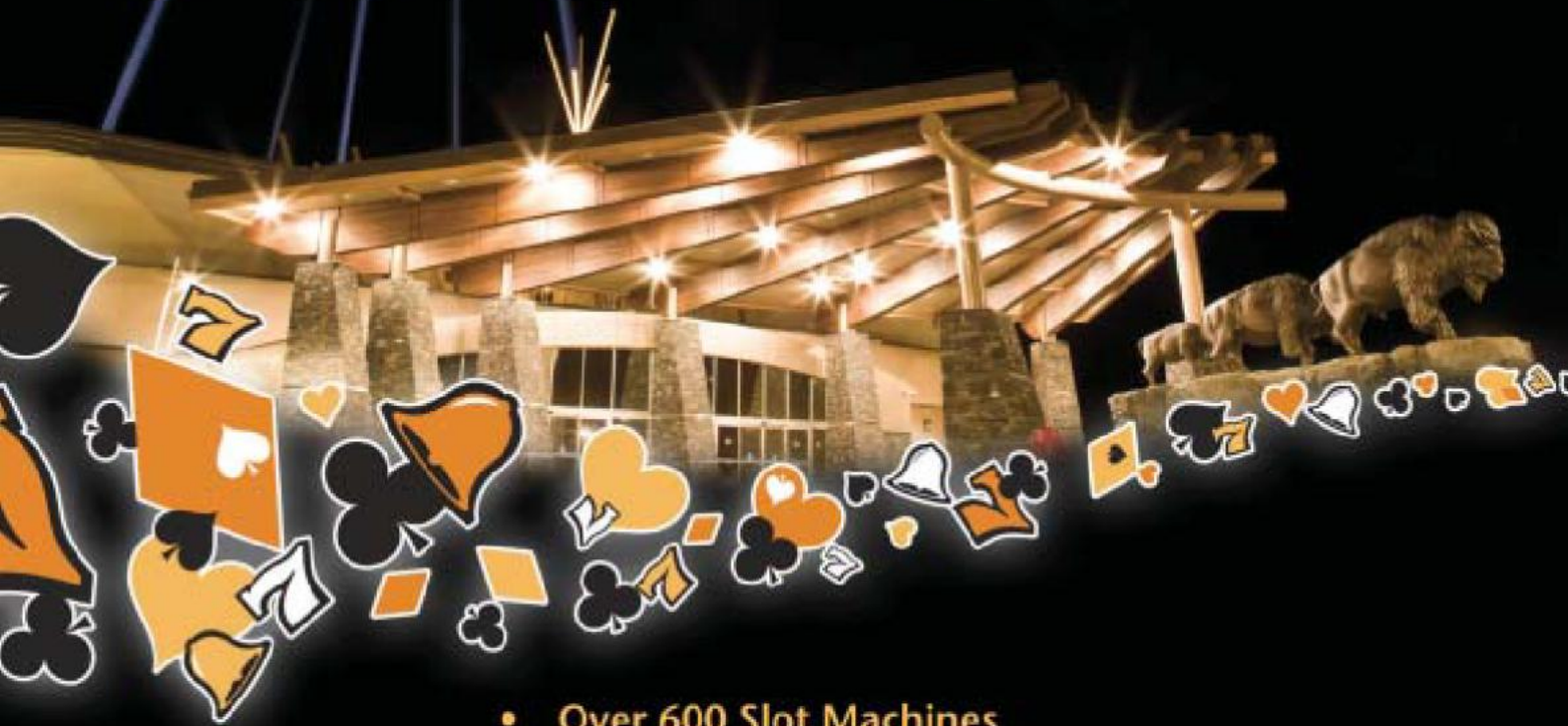
part illusion. The once-a-month chef may demand a professional kitchen, but daily practical concerns will dictate otherwise. So, designers expect us as their clients to be both students of, and participants in, a collaborative process. We need to be sufficiently self-aware to make good decisions. We also need to be prepared to reconsider old ways of thinking and doing. And we should be brutally honest with ourselves about what we can afford and what we truly need. If we can't do at least that, then we're not going to get much out of the design process except an interior destined for its next overhaul and a lingering sense of an opportunity missed.

Designers are sometimes frustrated by the opposing forces of client expectations and available budget. They are even more frustrated by clients who surrender their personal aesthetic to someone else's. A picture from a magazine can be a great starting point for trying to explain what you mean by "I'd like a warm, welcoming space" but the best design is still going to come from an individual response to deeply personal questions, like, "When you return home after a bad day, where in your home do you go for solace?" Perhaps all of the interior design we'll ever need is embodied in a comfortable chair, a window and a good cup of tea.

■ SANDRA KOCHAN



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